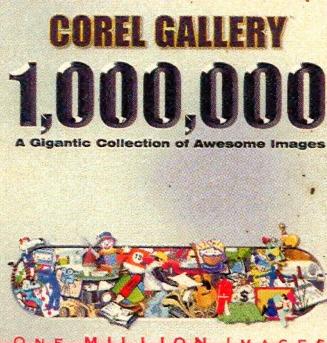


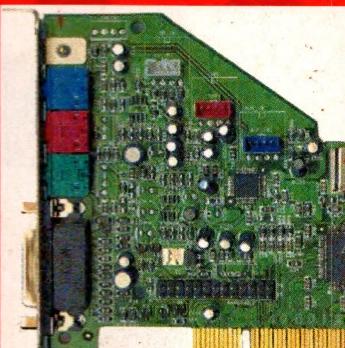
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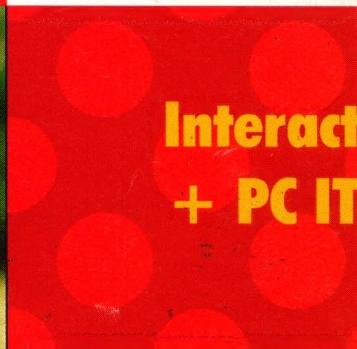
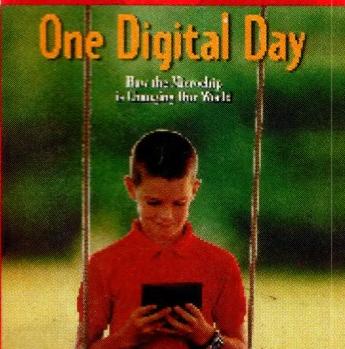
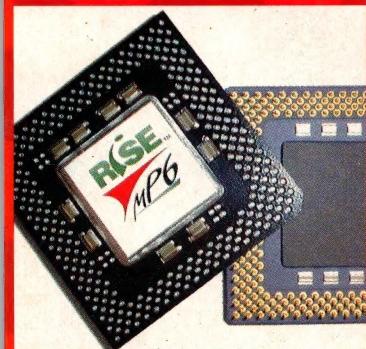


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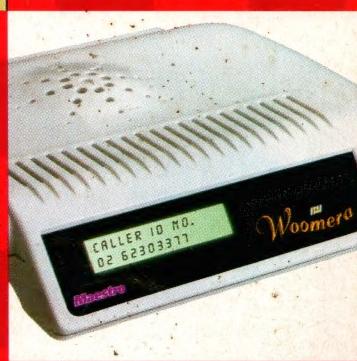
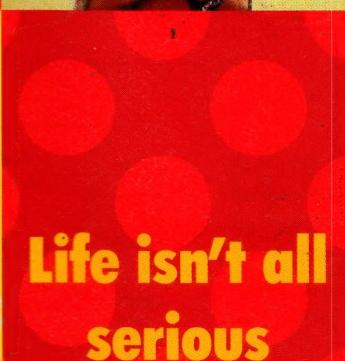
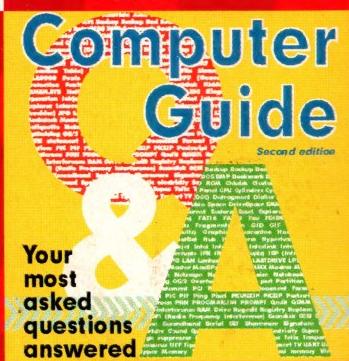


Using AltaVista search engine

Microsoft Windows 98
Symantec pcTelecommute



For your gift list
Multimedia database



MELBOURNE PC USER GROUP

ISSN 1031-8208
Print Post Approved
320258/0008



9 771031 820004

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Distribution

Gordon & Gotch Limited

Publisher

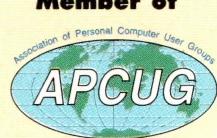
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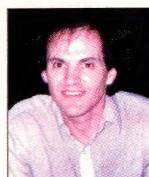
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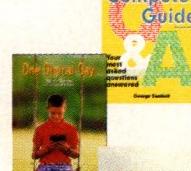
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February	4 Jan	6 Jan	8 Jan	29 Jan
March	1 Feb	3 Feb	5 Feb	26 Feb
April	8 Mar	10 Mar	12 Mar	2 Apr
May	5 Apr	7 Apr	9 Apr	30 Apr
June	3 May	5 May	7 May	28 May

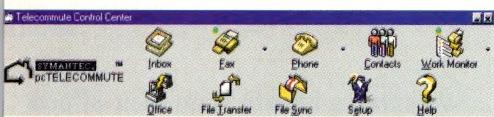
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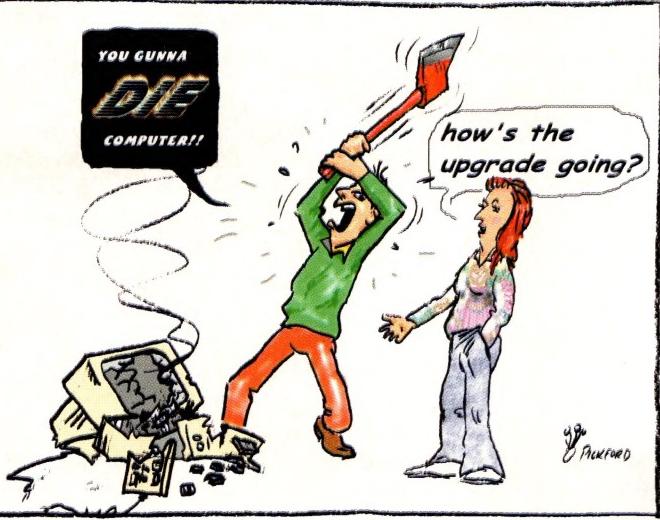


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Bernadette Houghton put this system to synchronise files between PCs through its paces. She says it's "...a useful program for those who split work time between multiple locations".



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Graphics. Supply graphics or screen shots, wherever possible, as colour, or black and white images, saved in one of the formats: PCX, BMP, TIF, WMF or EPS.

Rejections. Contact the editor if your submission is not published within four issues. Articles with long file names, self-extracting files or virus infections are rejected without notification. Other rejections are advised by phone or in writing.

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EDITORIAL

**Carol
Daniels**



Is it really the end of another year? Yes it is, or it soon will be. The years do pass at an accelerating rate as you get older and busier. Although it's only 1 November today, it is for all intents and purposes the end of my year. I'll soon be off overseas and although I will be working, for myself and on behalf of Melb PC and *PC Update*, while I'm gone, I somehow mark the end of each year with the final issue of *PC Update*. Everything I do from today on will be filed, mentally at least, in 1999.

Thanks a million

One thing I must do before "the end of the year" is thank the *PC Update* team, our contributors (authors and cartoonists!), all the members that write to me throughout the year, all the volunteers that help with the various aspects of Melb PC, and those non-Melb PC authors who gave permission for their work to be published in *PC Update*. A special thank you to the office staff and the office volunteers who put up with my shenanigans whenever I visit the office. Of course, I can't forget our advertisers and the vendors that support Melb PC, *PC Update*, and of course, my fellow committee members.

Thanks too, to the online community of writers and editors, in APCUG, Studio B and OWL, whose ideas, insights and rants always spark the sort of thought processes that develop into a topic to write about, even when I'm sure I have nothing to write about!

One of the thoughts that guides me as I work on each issue of *PC Update*, is how can we shift the focus from

computer users
to
computer users.

There will always be a segment of our membership that takes delight in discovering the how and why of computers and computing for their own, intrinsic merits. I confess to being one of them, a perennial student, always in search of a new subject to explore.

But today, the computer is one of, if not the most, ubiquitous symbols of

technology in western civilisation. It is a constant part of each of our lives. That is why I believe it is so important for *PC Update* to cover computers and computing in a user context, rather than a computer context. Because computers have the potential to affect every aspect of our lives, understanding them, how they work, in isolation, limits our use of the computer and the computer's usefulness in our lives.

That's why, over the past couple of years, you've seen articles in these pages about hardware and software, along with articles about how and why our members use their computers, and articles about how computers are changing our lives, individually or as members of distinct populations.

There have been a few grizzles about these articles, generally about the "softness" and the superiority of those articles that concentrate on "hard computing". On the other hand, Noel Craske and his students at Monash University have educated and enlightened us about some fascinating developments in software and hardware technology. On the whole, the response to the mix has been overwhelmingly positive. Need I say that I hope to continue developing and broadening the mix next year?

It all depends on you

All members are invited to contribute to *PC Update*. You do not need a lifetime's experience in computer science to help your fellow members with a tip, how-to or personal experience article. *PC Update* wouldn't be the magazine it is today without volunteer efforts, nor would Melb PC be what it is, without volunteers.

With the holiday season approaching, this is as good a time as any to remind members that Melb PC needs them to continue to grow, in numbers, benefits and services. If the prospect of experiencing some "warm fuzzies" from helping your fellow members isn't carrot enough for you, perhaps this information will convince you to step forward and lend a hand.

**volunteers feel
better, have
increased levels
of self-esteem**

Volunteers benefit from their efforts

As a volunteer, I can tell you that it just plain feels good to help another member. In this month's Chat Room, you will read that volunteering can also be a way to further develop your own skills and knowledge.

If you need more evidence, you can turn to a Retirement and Well-Being study conducted by Cornell University. The researchers looked at men and women who were still working or retired, and involved with some volunteer activity. The study showed that volunteers feel better, have increased levels of self-esteem and feel more in control of their lives, than individuals in similar circumstances who do not volunteer.

Even though I'm usually spruiking for contributors to *PC Update*, there are a myriad of ways you can volunteer at Melb PC, from helping at SIGs, at our main monthly meeting, in the office, at swap meets or in a networking group, as suggested by Ash Nallawalla in his article in the November issue of *PC Update*. (You can read some of the comments about the article and the follow-up already in progress, on page 56.)

That's all folks

That's all from me for 1998. I hope you enjoy your holiday season, and you have a safe, happy and bug-free New Year.

I hope to see you again, as readers, contributors, advertisers, vendors, sponsors and volunteers, in these pages next year.

What's the fun of sampling just one when you can score all of them?



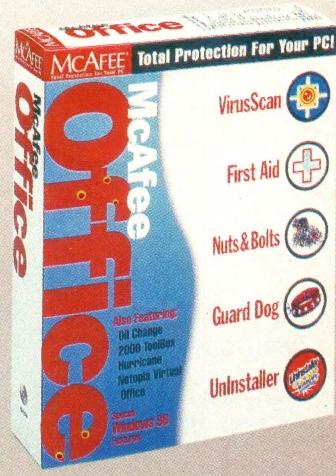
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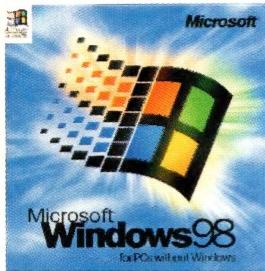
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Microsoft Windows 98



Info Box

MS Windows 98

Minimum system

- 486DX2 66 MHz or better processor (Pentium recommended)
- 16 MB RAM (24 MB recommended)
- 120 to 295 MB free hard-disk space depending on your system configuration and the options you choose to install.
- CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive
- 3.5-inch, 1.44 MB floppy disk drive
- VGA display
- Mouse or pointing device
- Check other hardware compatibility at <http://www.microsoft.com/hwtest/hcl>

Availability / cost

Available from most software resellers.

RRP: \$169 (Upgrade)
\$319 (Full)

Most people probably know by now that Microsoft Windows 98 (Win98) was launched on June 25, with little fanfare. Was there anything to celebrate? Just over three years have passed since the launch of Windows 95 (Win95) and while there were updates along the way, Microsoft probably decided to repackage it as an updated operating system. Some cynics said that Microsoft needed to plug a revenue "hole" caused by the delay of NT 5.0. Others said that this product is not worth the price.

What is Windows?

For the benefit of new users, I should explain that PCs need software called an operating system. Its task is humble but essential, and very complex. It keeps tabs on your hardware (the mechanical and electronic components) and your applications (the software you run). Win98 is an operating system (OS). Some people believe that there are better OSs about, but for the majority of us, some version of Windows drives our PCs.

In use

Many of us have used Win98 for a few months. Some hated it and went back to Win95 and some, like myself, think that it is great. As most people have read the reviews, I will mention some of the highlights here. I will also list some of the comments I saw in newsgroups, some of which I experienced on my PC.

Win98 pays special attention to the Internet, notably Internet Explorer v4.0. The Desktop has improved greatly. The new Web View option enables you to browse through your computer like a Web site. You can make a Web page or other HTML document your desktop wallpaper. Audio, video, and animations media play better than ever. For those in the US, Win98 also supports broadcast data services.

A significant improvement is in hardware compatibility. Win98 includes hundreds of new printer, modem and other drivers. It supports Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) drives, larger hard disks (greater than 2 GB), multiple monitors and Universal Serial Bus (USB).



**take my advice
and install Win98
on a freshly
formatted PC**

Why upgrade?

People who have the later release of Win95 (OSR 2.1) and freely-available IE 4 will see few apparent benefits in upgrading to Win98. FAT32, available in OSR 2.1, is a major feature in Win98 and enables the creation of partitions larger than 2 GB. As I was upgrading from the original release of Windows 95, this feature was the most useful to me. I also found it best to format my old disks and start from scratch than upgrade on top of Win95.

Some of the new features not in OSR 2.1 only affect owners of new PCs, such as support for the Universal Serial Bus and IEEE 1394 (FireWire). Software developers will enjoy the multiple-monitor support (although they should be using Windows NT!).

We in Australia cannot yet take advantage of the Digital Satellite System (DSS) and DirecTV support, which can feed up to 320 GB of data in a week and offer interactive TV guides.

FAT 32

I saw many people with problems with converting a drive from FAT 16 to FAT 32. This was an attractive proposition because FAT 32 uses less space on a disk to store the same file, particularly on drives larger than 127 MB. As drives are getting extremely cheap, there isn't a great attraction in saying that you could store, say, an extra GB in a 4 GB drive. Yet it is pointless being wasteful and there is a practical benefit in being free to have a single drive letter containing several gigabytes.

Some people, including myself, had problems converting a drive to FAT 32 on some PCs and none on others. There was a lot of dubious

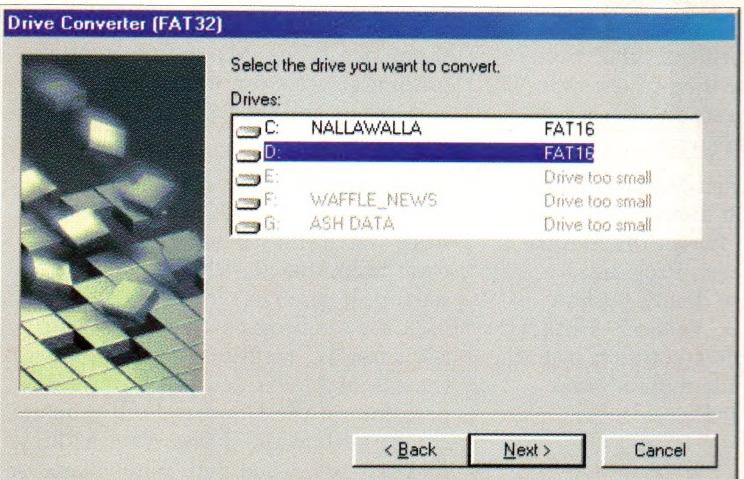


Figure 1. Conversion of a drive from FAT 16 to FAT 32 frees up wasted space

advice seen on the Net, but my own discovery was simple and applies to many installation situations: do it in "Safe Mode".

Automated power management

I like the automated power management (APM). It shuts down a drive and other hardware after a period of inactivity, which saves electricity. Some people have noticed their system clock losing time, as much as a minute per hour. They need to have APM enabled.



Figure 2. Windows Update lists the updates that you may wish to download

No fax?

Some people have been unable to find Microsoft Fax or have had trouble installing Symantec WinFax Pro. The solution is on the CD-ROM in the directory `\tools\oldwin95\message\intl`

Powertoys?

Do not use the Win95 Powertoys, the unofficial collection of useful utilities. The Win98 CD-ROM contains just Tweak UI, a very valuable tool that

you should check out. There is no need to install the old DeskMenu as the Quick Launch toolbar includes a Show Desktop icon by default. Clicking it closes all open windows and shows the desktop. The old DosHere and Explore from Here toys will work but should be installed individually.

More resources

I appreciate that my PC now does not run out of "resources" after a long day's worth of Web surfing. A resource is a

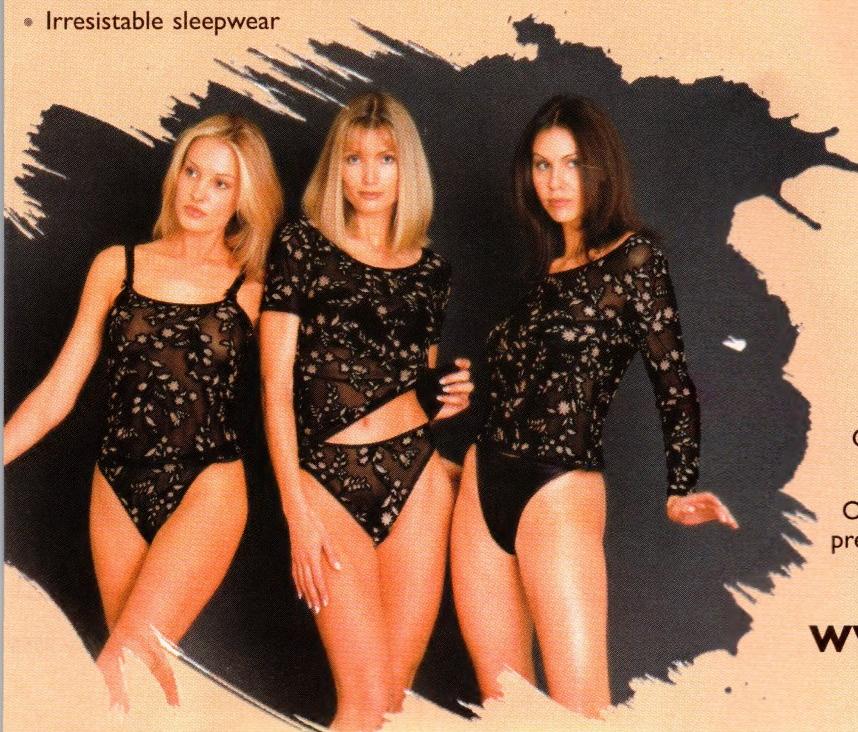
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finite allocation of memory that cannot be recovered, once lost, which is caused by buggy software. This was almost a daily problem under Win95.

USB

Universal Serial Bus (USB) is a new external bus standard that supports data transfer rates of 12 Mbps. A single USB port can daisy-chain up to 127 peripheral devices, such as scanners, mice, modems, and keyboards. USB also supports hot swapping. It will replace serial and parallel ports completely, so you may wish to buy peripherals that support USB (only when it is time to upgrade them).

Disables competitor software?

Some have claimed that the setup routine "deliberately" disables files used by competitors' software and installs different versions of those files. This is not true.

If the setup routine detects that a program has installed a newer shared DLL than the version that comes with Win 98, the new file is moved to a new location, and is replaced by an older version of the same file. The program may no longer work properly, if at all.

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This was done so that Win 98 does not have to grapple with DLLs that were released after those used to test Win 98. In many cases, Microsoft released the DLLs to the vendors in the first place.

The Version Conflict Manager (VCM) keeps track of such disabled files and provides a way to switch the files back. To find it, click Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, System Information, Tools, Version Conflict Manager. Run it after you first install Win98 as an upgrade with all your applications installed.

No sharing?

If you try to install Word 6.0 and get an error message that share.exe is not found, copy the one from Windows 3.1 into your \windows\command directory. If you can't find your Windows 3.1 copy, no problem; copy any text file to that directory and rename it share.exe. The silly program just looks for the file name; it does not use it.

Note: If you choose to run FAT 32, share.exe no longer works in MS-DOS mode.

Disk defragmentation

Some people have noticed that the new disk defragmenter gets to about 10 percent and then runs extremely slowly (it is best to run it overnight.)

You can reduce the delay by going to the Settings option and unchecking the box "Rearrange program files so my programs start faster." With this option unchecked on a 4 GB drive, defragmentation takes about thirty

minutes. With it checked, it could take about two hours. Make sure no other running process can interrupt it, as it will restart and take all night to do the job.

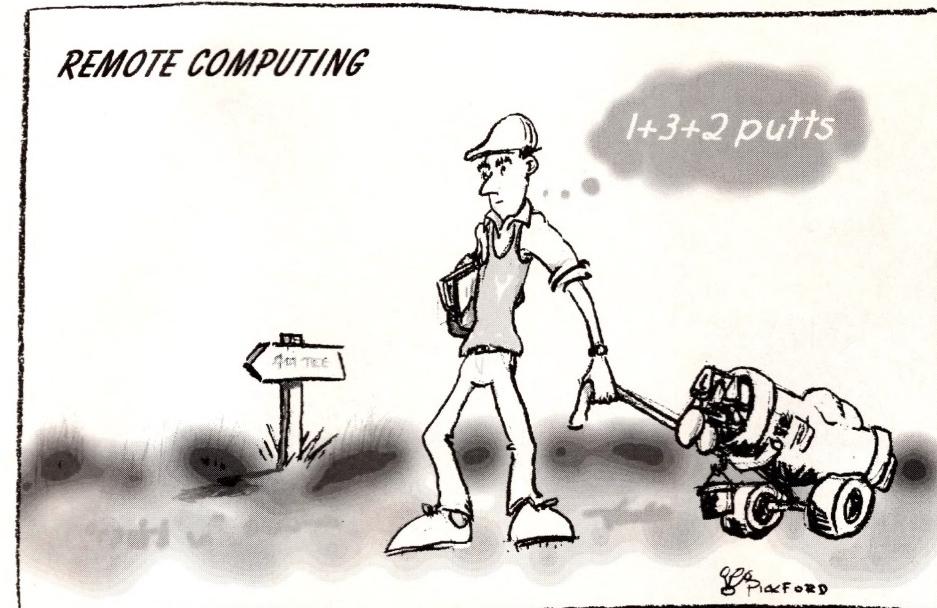
There is a hidden directory called \windows\applog, which is used to store system information collected from taskmon.exe, which is run at startup. It generates log files ending in .LGX for the programs you run. The last letter "x" identifies the drive where the executable resides. For example, a program on the D:\ drive will generate a *.LGD extension. These plain ASCII files can be opened with notepad.exe or a word processor. The information collected includes the location of the components, their load order and associated DLL files. A file called optlog.txt is generated after every defragmentation run.

Updates

A nice feature of Internet Explorer 4.01 is Windows Update. It compares your configuration against the latest version available and you can choose to download the new version.

Bugs?

If you take my advice and install Win98 on a freshly formatted PC, you will see the least number of problems. This way, you will install applications over any DLL installed by Win98, not the other way around. You will also need to check with the Web site of your application vendor to see if you need any recent patch. That is always a good habit, even if you are not upgrading the operating system.



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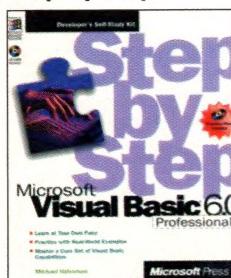
Seeing the Basics: Visual Basic 6.0 book reviews

This column provides techniques, tips, and tricks to help you gain familiarity and experience with MS Visual Basic, a popular language that enables you to write both Windows and World Wide Web applications quickly.

Coming to terms with Visual Basic 6.0

This month's column reviews two books that can help you derive the most out of Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0, one of the most popular rapid application development (RAD) environments ever devised.

Step by step



The first book, *Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Professional Step by Step* describes itself as a developer's self-study kit, and that's exactly what it is.

You can use it to learn at your own pace, and to concentrate solely on those features of the language that concern you most. For example, your most pressing need might be to understand the connection between the Internet and VB programming.

Alternatively, first-time VB programmers can work their way through it progressively from beginning to end.

The book represents a comprehensive introduction to the Professional edition of the language, and covers everything from writing your first VB program through to understanding advanced database programming concepts. (VB 6.0 comes in three editions: Learning, Professional, and Enterprise.)

It's been divided into seven parts and consists of 24 lessons, and has more than 100 exercises and sample programs to work through. To effectively put into practice what it teaches, its companion CD-ROM contains a set of practice files covering real-life situations

(note: the installation of these requires approximately 12 MB).

The text has been written with a variety of readers in mind: those new to programming, those switching from MS C or another Windows-based programming language, or those upgrading from MS Visual Basic 5.0 (or earlier). A guide in the front of the book can be used to quickly find the best starting point, regardless of your previous experience.

Brief overviews of the seven parts of the book are as follows:

- *Getting started with VB* looks at the programming environment; getting help; the use of properties; working with controls; setting up menus and dialog boxes; and running VB programs
- *Programming fundamentals* discusses variables and operators; decision structures like the "If Then" and "Select Case" statements; loops; and timers
- *Creating the User Interface* focuses on forms; printers; error handlers; graphical effects; and how to incorporate drag-and-drop support into programs
- *Managing Data* tackles modules; procedures; collections; arrays; text files and string processing; Access databases; and how to connect VB to different components of Microsoft Office, for example, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- *Tools and techniques* covers the rich text box control; the multimedia MCI (media control interface) control; and how to extend VB by taking advantage of the Windows API (application programming interface)
- *Internet programming* examines using the Internet Transfer control to download files; using Microsoft Internet Explorer to display HTML documents; and creating dynamic HTML (DHTML) pages for Web-based VB applications. FlexGrid control, plus a discussion of the ADO (ActiveX Data Objects) database technology.

Tony
Stevenson



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Microsoft
Visual Basic
Professional Edition

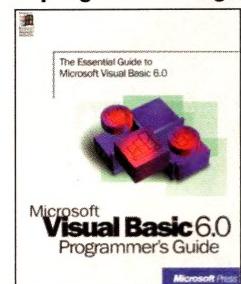
Just inside its front cover, the book has a list of what the author regards as his Top 10 MS Visual Basic Web sites. Here you'll find information about everything related to VB, such as the latest news and developments, heaps of source code, technical papers, tips and tricks, additional Web links, VB add-ons, ActiveX controls, Web tools, and more.

So if you like programming books that adopt a tutorial approach, add this to the top of your VB summer reading list.

Michael Halvorson
Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Professional Step by Step

ISBN: 1 57231 809 0
632 pages plus companion CD-ROM
Published by Microsoft Press
Distributed in Australia by Woodslane
RRP: \$89.95

A programmer's guide



Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Programmer's Guide is also aimed at beginning-to-intermediate users of VB, although more experienced programmers will also gain benefit.

One of its best features is that it's been written by the people actually responsible for putting together the latest release of the language, the Microsoft Visual Basic development team. Who better to turn to for help than the experts themselves?

The book is divided into two parts.

The first section concentrates on the basics, and is an excellent introduction to VB programming. The topics covered include the steps involved in developing a VB application, such as the use of forms, controls, and menus, the best way to manage your projects; and a discussion of programming fundamentals with an emphasis on the mechanics of writing code.

The second part of the book focuses on what can be done with the language, and looks at some of the more advanced topics. These include programming with objects and components; adequately and effectively responding to mouse and keyboard events; how to distribute your completed applications using the new Package and Deployment Wizard; and the ins and out of understanding VB-related performance issues—optimising for speed or size (or both), optimising objects, and the guidelines covering compiled vs interpreted applications.

The book concludes with four appendices, each of which contains useful additional material covering:

- VB specifications; minimum system requirements for VB applications; file formats; and project limitations, e.g. a maximum of 254 control names per form
- VB coding conventions covering naming conventions for objects, variables, and procedures; standardised formats for labelling and commenting code; and guidelines for spacing, formatting, and indenting
- Native code compiler switches, which can be used for optimising and de-

bugging applications. For example, to optimise for fast code or alternatively small code, minimise the size of the compiled executable file by favouring size over speed

- Adding help to VB applications, so users can gain maximum usability and functionality from your new systems.

If you're completely new to VB programming, it's recommended to read part one of this book first. Experienced programmers, who are looking to incorporate more advanced programming concepts and techniques into their VB projects, can skim the first part and concentrate more on the second half.

However, all readers will find that this book also represents an excellent source of reference material, regardless of their VB expertise.

You'll want to keep it close to your PC while you cut your code.

Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Programmer's Guide

ISBN: 1 57231 863 5

959 pages

Published by Microsoft Press

Distributed in Australia by Woodslane

RRP: \$89.95

Conclusion

Even though Visual Basic 6.0's online help is extensive and I use it a lot, I still find it helpful to have some good VB books handy. That's especially the case if I'm trying to come to terms with a new concept or a different way of tackling a VB programming problem. I can open a hard-copy text flat next to my computer and not have to worry continually about swapping between different Windows to find the information I need.

Both *Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Professional Step by Step* and *Microsoft Visual Basic 6.0 Programmer's Guide* are ideal for anyone wanting to learn how to program professionally with VB 6.0. Serious hobbyists, too, will find plenty of material to keep them busy.

Alternatively, they're good for seasoned programmers, with experience in previous versions of the language, who want to come up to speed quickly with the latest features, and build upon their existing VB knowledge.

Both are recommended additions to your Visual Basic bookshelf. □

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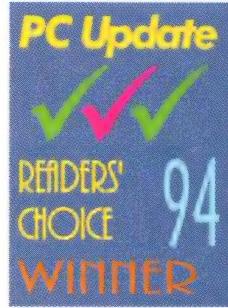
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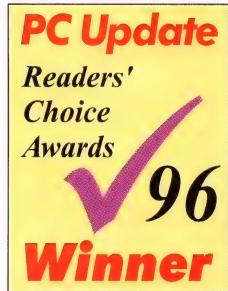


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Interact + PC IT

This year the two major exhibitions combined with about 230 exhibitors and 15,000 m² of displays. That, and a packed four-day program of seminars, was more than I wanted to cope with. So, this report is my impression of what I saw in about five hours. I didn't attempt to see everything, just things that caught my interest, so please pardon any bias!

Impressions

After the welcome breakfast, Victorian Treasurer and Minister for Information Technology and Multimedia, Alan Stockdale, officially opened the show, saying that Interact was now one of the most important Multimedia Festivals in the Asia Pacific region. He also said in the last four years, Victoria had attracted around \$2 billion in IT investment (much of it from overseas).

It was now 9 am and the show was officially open. Many of the exhibitors must have been working to a different clock. I made a rapid circuit, to get my bearings, before the crowds arrived. Many stands had no staff, others no



Figure 1. The Gateway (right) and other stands

equipment, some were busy unpacking boxes and looking for tools to complete their setup. Not very confidence-inspiring. By midday the chaos was tamed.

Back to the theatre at 10 am for the Keynote Address by John Stuckey, CEO of connect.com.au Pty Ltd. This was the first year that Interact and PC IT combined, and one teething problem was enthusiastic multimedia exhibitors close to the theatre. Not a wise move. Most of John's address was disrupted by the noise outside, but he soldiered on (with the occasional plea, "someone, please do something about it").

The thrust of his address was major benefits of the Internet will be felt when it is fully embraced in the Business-to-Business market. Up to now most transactions have been Business-to-Consumer.

Back to the floor

There were lots of "shell" stands with small, keen companies. Most "corporates" had large glitzy hi-tech stands, but after a while they all look the same to me. My favourite—Gateway with its flying cow, Aussie rural theme, hessian sacks, hay bales, weathered wood and the corrugated iron water tank, up on a high stand. And they were doing a roaring trade in soft cows and hard mugs.

Some quick stats

- CD writers—18 stands/companies offering either equipment or services
- Internet—around 70 offering varying services
- Another 70 or so for multimedia.

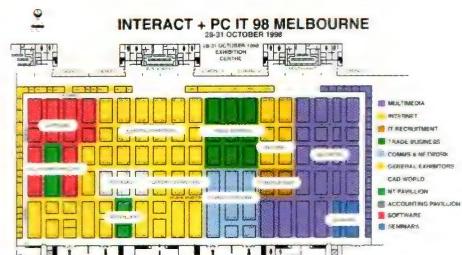


Figure 2. Theatre (lower right), surrounded by multimedia (purple area)

Products of interest

- The Rise mp6 CPU. This is one of a new range of CPUs looking to acquire part of the estimated 50 million units p.a. market. The CPU is aimed at low-end and notebook systems, and has low power requirements and faster processing of multimedia instructions than its rivals. It will help fuel the predicted sub-US\$700 PC market. Pricing will be released at COMDEX/Fall.
- The new Epson x40 colour printers. You must see the samples. My Epson 600 is only a year old (sob) and is visibly out-of-date. To my eye Epson still leads HP and Canon, but only just. Epsons start at \$299 (RRP), but my choice would be the 740, with five colours, plus black, and variable drop size. Its street price is under \$500.
- The Radioman radio. Available as AM (\$64) or AM/FM (\$79, pictured). They plug into a serial port, connect to a sound card, need no external power and are tuned and controlled through a Windows utility. We hope to review one next year.
- QMS colour laser printer, around \$4000 ex tax—cheap compared to my first, slow 300 dpi mono laser that cost \$6500+, but the budget is less flexible than it was over 10 years ago.
- CD CarDs. I hate the name (caps in the middle of words are a writer or editor's nightmare). There's nothing wrong with the concept, though. A business card sized (and shaped) CD-ROM, with 16 MB of information. Despite its odd look, it reads perfectly in a standard CD-ROM drive. Costs range from \$2.44 to \$14.48 each, depending on content, printing and quantity.



Figure 3.

Another view of the exhibition



Next year

In 1999 the show runs from 31 August to 3 September. I suggest you mark it in your diary, with a note to save \$20 by pre-registering via the Internet (www.ausexhibit.com.au/pcit/). As well as free entry, you can pick up your pass without queuing and entering your details online outside the show. The organisers said 2500 people registered via the Internet the day before this year's show opened—next year do it earlier, in case the rush is greater.

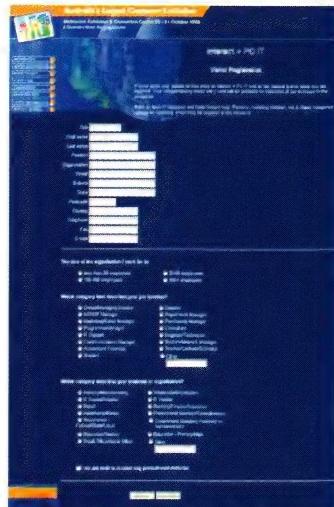


Figure 4. Registration Web page

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The Chat Room: Peter Selig

I once overheard the remark, "Knowledge is the font of all wisdom". Taking this concept one step further implies that, truly deep or insightful understanding of a subject will deliver substantive expertise. Peter Selig places emphasis on knowing the fundamental operations of a personal computer. He has developed his great knowledge about computers through many years of learning and helping others.

Peter became interested in computers in 1986, when he worked with them in his paid employment. In this role he undertook a small amount of programming, which he found stimulating and his fascination with computing grew. His desire to remain involved with information technology is demonstrated by his observation: "It is an area that is very relevant to our lives, in many aspects of our lives." Peter said: "In the last six or seven years the situation has evolved that more and more people have a computer at home. People are using them for all sorts of things."

He enjoys the challenge of trying to understand how computers and systems function. He perceives that he is engaged in a continuous process of learning and building his knowledge of computers. In 1989 and 1990 he completed a course in computer science that mainly focused on programming. At the time the dominant operating system was DOS and during his studies Peter learnt enough about DOS to complete his course. Since that time and specifically in the last four or five years he has, "learnt a lot more about DOS and DOS commands and the complex ways you can get the computer to work the way that you want it to". He has gradually learnt from other people he has met through Melb PC.

Peter is a volunteer for several of the topics in the Dial Help lists. He provides assistance with Batch File programming, which is intertwined

with DOS commands. "Basically, batch file programming is a way of using a series of DOS commands in a sequence, that enables you to perform some action or operation on the PC in an automated way. For example if a person wants to reorganise the filing system."

He is also available to provide help in the topics of Beginners, Windows Beginners and New Users. These services assist people who are very new at using personal computers. Furthermore Peter is happy to answer questions about MS-DOS versions 6, 5 and earlier.

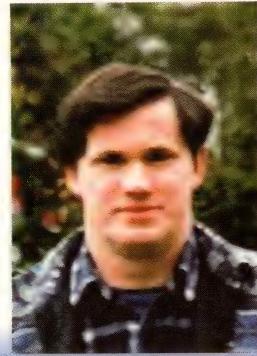
Peter believes that there is "some learning in teaching. In trying to explain something ... I may get a new insight on the particular aspect of DOS that we are discussing. For example the person making the enquiry might be trying to do something that I have never done before. In talking to someone else to answer a question or resolve a problem, you get a lot of experience trying to explain something in terms that another person can understand easily."

Members who want assistance with the Pascal programming language, can also call on Peter. Pascal is something he first learnt in his computer science studies in 1989-1990. Six months to a year after joining Melb PC he volunteered to help callers with Pascal questions.

That's not all. Peter also helps members with problems regarding computer viruses, an interest that stems—in part—from his desire to learn how computers work at a fundamental level, as well as an interest in the virus phenomenon itself. To begin learning about viruses he attended an introductory training course in virus prevention at Melb PC. Peter believes to develop expertise, "it is important to understand how computers work at a fundamental level".

"By trying to learn more about the fundamental operations of the

Neil
Plueckhabn



PC, you have a better foundation for understanding how most other programs or processes would work on the computer," Peter added.

Aside from computers, he enjoys sporting pursuits. He plays squash with the Gardenvale Squash Club at pennant competition level. He has participated in squash for ten years and it is his main recreation. He also enjoys downhill skiing, horse riding and reading. Peter finds people who have to struggle against great odds inspiring, in particular people with disabilities.

He was reticent to nominate his favourite book, however he eventually said, "If I have to nominate one, *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien: it is a marvellous, beautifully told story. Essentially it is a fantasy in a way, yet as a fantasy it has been so well written, and the characters and events are so well developed, that it seems very much like real life, and the characters and events are very believable."

Peter said, "My main active involvement with other people with Melb PC is through the Dial Help service. I have



found that very interesting and very rewarding, and I hope I am helping other members. I would encourage anyone who thinks it is something that they could possibly do, to put themselves down under whatever area they feel capable of helping [in].

"You do not need to be all that expert to be able to help another person." Peter believes that if you take the plunge and offer to be a Dial Help volunteer, you begin to help callers with problems, and expand your level of knowledge at the same time. Members who persist with Dial Help involvement may find they have dramatically increased their computing knowledge.

More generally Peter encouraged all Melb PC members to become involved in voluntary activities. He asserted that

most of the services rely heavily on volunteers and that those who contribute receive, "any number of rewards and satisfaction in return".

Sharing knowledge with others is an excellent way to develop a deeper understanding of computers.

Peter Selig believes that interaction with those seeking help provide the impetus for a volunteer to learn continually, and eventually reach a high level of expertise. Such expertise will be solid if it is built on a foundation of comprehension of the fundamental operations of a personal computer.

PS

Your suggestions for interviewees are always welcome. Please send details of those people you wish to read about to neilplue@virtual.net.au. □

Volunteer of the month

November—John Morris

John Morris is probably the most willing volunteer in Melb PC, working tirelessly and spending countless hours each week in many different roles for the Group.

To many he is best known as the voice of experience helping those with Internet problems. However this is not the only activity he undertakes and oversees. At the monthly meetings it is John who arranges the hall and the setting out of the seating, the tables, and the equipment. At the weekly swap meets, it is John who co-ordinates the team of volunteers, sees to the equipment, in addition to spending many hours each week representing Melb PC at these stands.

Perhaps he is best known for his expression: "Just tell me what you want done, and I'll do it!" After that, you always know that he will do it, and it will always be done in such a way that you know it is in safe hands.

John's patience in providing Internet help is legendary, although many find it frustrating because he is not immediately available, usually because he is in the middle of helping someone else. John will always return your calls, and he will follow through on a problem as far as possible, always with his natural persistence and patience. In this work he is assisted by his wife, Val, who somehow manages to decipher all those unclear messages left on his answering machine, and by Baba, who is constantly on guard!

Our Volunteer of the Month is John Morris—it should be Volunteer of the Year!



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President's Annual Report

Stan
Johnstone



At the end of my last Annual Report I said that I looked forward to serving you again as President during this year. Already that year is past—it seemed to pass at an unbelievable rate!

Last year we had just moved to our new offices in Dorcas Street, and having spent most of the previous six months on that project, I hoped to be able to spend more time representing you more widely in Melb PC activities. I think I achieved that, although work behind the scenes is seldom seen.

We started the year a little behind the eight-ball as a result of a shortfall in the number of members standing for election. However I was most fortunate in being able to quickly rectify this by inviting **George Skarbek, John Swale and Brian Horman** to join the Committee and fill the vacancies. The wealth of experience they brought with them resulted in the strongest, most experienced and united Committee in our history.

Financial matters

The Financial Report for the year ending 30 June 1998 was published in the October issue of *PC Update*. Under the guidance of our treasurer, **Bill Ford**, we have been able to continue the positive financial trend started by **Bruce Elliott** some four years ago.

Despite the costs of moving to Dorcas Street and purchasing new furnishings and equipment, despite litigation costs arising from the action of one our members, despite rising costs in almost every field, and despite reduced industry support, we were still able to declare a surplus for the year, albeit much smaller than last year. Our overall financial position is even stronger than it was twelve months ago.

This has been achieved without any increase in fees in any area. This is largely due to the small but dedicated staff led by **Tricia Swan**, and the generous donations of time and energy by volunteers which enable us to run a very lean organisation.

In the past year we spent a lot of money; it is your money and it is being spent wisely on your behalf. At the same time we have accumulated sufficient funds to secure the future of Melb PC and to continue its development.

In past years we have benefited from the generosity and continued support of major vendors through donations of product material for the running of Melb PC, and for prizes at our Monthly Meetings. During the first half of this year we continued the close relationship with Microsoft through **Carrie Mayhew**, its Customer Relations Manager. Unfortunately since her resignation the support we previously enjoyed from Microsoft has completely dried up. We are aware Microsoft is going through a time of major restructuring, however the lack of support from this major company has been most disappointing.

Fortunately most of our other close friends in the industry continue their excellent support.

Dorcas Street offices

The wisdom of moving from Albert Road has never been in doubt since the move.

Facilities and equipment continue to improve, the upgrading and additional equipment is constantly reviewed to ensure the maximum benefit to members. The problem of office security that plagued us at Albert Road has been successfully overcome, and we believe we can continue to provide attractive venues for training, meetings, etc.

The day-to-day running of the office by **Tricia Swan, Margaret Greer, and part-timer Kerry Williams**, together with the willing volunteers mean that the Secretary **John Swale** is not required to visit unnecessarily. How did we get on before the days of Internet and e-mail?

All in all we are now able to present a much more professional image to the community than was previously possible.

Internet

The timing of our move to Dorcas St was most opportune to take advantage of the new 56 kbps technology that was being released at that time. Since then we have added additional ISDN lines to increase the number of lines available, and also to make available the V.90 protocol now that it has been adopted as the international standard. Just on 5,000 of our members subscribe to the Internet service.

We are continuing to use the k56flex protocol on the earlier 56 kbps equipment, and this firmware will be upgraded just as soon as all the "bugs" in V.90 have been found. In the meantime, users of V.90 and k56flex modems can enjoy the benefits of faster transfers.

During the year we were fortunate to have **George Skarbek** take over the leadership of the Internet team of **Richard Solly, Jason Lee, Ash Nallawalla, John Morris** and myself. With regular meetings and building on their training and experience, a lot of thought and planning is given to maximise existing and new resources, and continually study ways to improve and increase access and performance for the benefit of the user.

There have been several changes during the year to the bandwidth size and source. Our monthly traffic costs doubled in the past twelve months, however we have been able to increase our Internet feed and the benefit will become apparent. We now subscribe to a monitoring service in the US which reports regularly on our service as it is seen worldwide. Our own statistics enable us to monitor closely all factors such as line saturation, etc.

The mailing out of "yellow cards" was commenced just twelve months ago, and is done daily to help users who we identify as having problems at the authentication phase of dialling. Often this happens at the time of a member doing an upgrade, forgetting their password, or it could indicate the need for the member to seek help. It takes time each day, but it does benefit users.

We do not know of any other Internet provider who provides this type of service.

The introduction of Intranet access during the year provided increased access time for users, and the online files and our large caches enable us to provide an increased and better service without incurring additional expenditure for traffic charges. Newsgroups continue to create a major headache as they tend to create line saturation at times, with the volume of news fed to us. Unfortunately most of this news goes unread, anyway!

We have plans to upgrade the service further and hope to increase the current two hours access to four hours per day early next year. Despite the additional hardware that we will need to install to provide the level of service required, we are confident that these plans will be implemented without any need to increase fees.

Bulletin Board Service (BBS)

There has been little development of the BBS over the past two years, and the changes to the operating system recommended by the team two years ago have never been implemented.

With all the work that went into building up the BBS over the years, it is very sad to see how the Internet has now greatly reduced the need for BBSs. Phil Lew continues to lead a willing team to maintain the system, and it still is a wonderful resource, and a quicker and cheaper method for obtaining files and other material.

During the year it was recommended that it was unnecessary to continue with the 32 modem lines, and so access was reduced to one rotary group of 16 lines.

Although it was hoped to introduce a system for cheaper e-mail and FTP access through the BBS, the necessary

volunteers and experience have not been forthcoming. It appears that such a service is unlikely to develop.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

With the appointment of Joe Henry as SIG Co-ordinator there has been much closer liaison with the Committee, and Joe has tried to attend at least one meeting of each SIG during the year. A couple of older SIGs have closed due to lack of interest, while at the same time new ones have started.

Following the closure of the Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts group (MACE), the ex-members transferred to Melb PC so we started the MACE SIG, which meets at Dorcas Street on the second Sunday each month.

Both the Retirees and Interested Persons SIG (RIPSG) and the East SIG continue to fill their venues to full capacity, and the Windows SIG under Lynn Pollock has now grown to the extent of "standing room only". The regional groups at Ballarat, Bendigo, Sunshine and Warragul continue to serve the members in those areas.

During the year the computer in the Dorcas St SIG room was replaced with a monster aimed at trying to meet the requirements of all the SIGs that meet there. This included the requirement for it to boot under multiple operating systems, and this was finally achieved through the efforts of Barry Martin, Lynn Pollock and Joe Henry. Well, we think they have covered everything, but then, what if they want to add ...!

One project that was proposed was the installation of a camera to enable members to "visit" a SIG while in progress using the Internet. Unfortunately this work did not proceed, and it is hoped that a new volunteer group will work to develop this feature next year.

Training

One of the big disappointments has been our performance in training during the year.

This is despite the excellent facilities and equipment we have installed, and despite the high quality of the trainers we employ. There is certainly no criticism of them or the excellent work they do, and I know they share our frustration in this matter. Too many courses were cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

Most of the trainers teach these courses at other venues such as CAE and TAFE colleges—and there they come across Melb PC members doing exactly the same course. Why? Is the perception that our prices suggest a lower standard of training course?

Brian Horman from the Committee is now working with the training team to help them build up training to the level we would all like to see.

Membership

There was a small decline in membership during the year. Unfortunately this is a tendency that all types of non-profit organisations experience worldwide.

However the membership sub-Committee has initiated a number of steps in order to arrest this trend and is determined to reverse it. One of the first approaches can be seen in an advertisement appearing elsewhere in this magazine. It is in your interest that we maintain or increase our membership in order that we may better represent the interests of our members in the industry and other forums.

Naturally the other benefit is it helps maintain our financial stability and thus provide the members' benefits at minimum cost. Please remember you

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can always help by encouraging other members of your family, friends or business associates to join and enjoy the benefits we have to offer.

PC Update

One of the most rewarding results this year was achieving improved reliable and fast delivery of the magazine to our members through the use of Australia Post. The previous method of delivery, introduced some years ago to reduce costs, had become increasingly less reliable.

Although the current method does cost more, it is ironic that the current size and paper weight of *PC Update* brings us right to the limit of a range in the postal rates. One month, during the year, the magazine had 2 mm trimmed off the bottom to save what would otherwise have been an increase in mailing cost of about \$1200!

In Carol Daniel's third year as Editor she has introduced new types of material, and is always on the lookout for more articles on a wider range of topics relevant in today's use of computers. Although Ash Nallawalla had to restrict his activities somewhat during the year due to other commitments, he continues to handle the independent reviews that members enjoy. Like the last stage in a relay race, Peter Smith somehow or other makes sure everything fits together and reaches the printer in time.

Naturally it is not only their work, there are many others who write articles, help with the sub-editing, proof-reading, etc—all their work is most appreciated, especially when it makes the deadlines!

We continue to provide copies of *PC Update* to the Adelaide and Perth User Groups at the "run-on" cost. This enables these groups to provide their members with a quality magazine at a nominal cost to accompany their own local newsletter. This is an extension to "User Groups helping User Groups" beyond our own "Users helping Users".

Networking (but not PCs)

Ash Nallawalla's article in last month's issue of *PC Update* (p.48), "Unemployed at 45", attracted a good deal of correspondence. Many were pleased to see his frankness and some related similar tales. In my opinion it was one of the most important articles published in *PC Update* during the year, and I admire the courage and honesty Ash displayed in writing it.

These days there is a lot of job insecurity through downsizing, retrenchment, etc, and it is now obvious there are many members who are keen to see one or more networking groups established at Melb PC.

It would appear that Melb PC should play a role in assisting members and it surely falls within the true purpose in our rules. It does not matter what industry we talk about, the important factors are common to all. I believe that we have the material resources available, and almost certainly have members working in the field of job placement who, I hope, would be prepared to assist with their advice.

The precise format of these groups will probably be determined by the groups themselves. They may wish to meet through e-mail, at our premises or elsewhere, although we will arrange the initial get-together to set the ball rolling. You do not have to be unemployed to take part. Anyone who is interested in taking part in any aspect would be most welcome. Please contact myself by mail or e-mail to register your interest and we will get this started as soon as possible.

Naturally all of this would be treated in a confidential manner, and I hope it will be possible to create a small Committee to co-ordinate this project. How about you?

Our changing face

In the early days of Melb PC, who would have guessed that PC equipment would develop so rapidly, that so many accessories would become available to add on, or that it would become so fast and powerful yet remain so compact? Furthermore, who would have foreseen the uses that would develop from what was originally a machine for number crunching.

Who could have foreseen the impact of the Internet? In many presentations I have attended recently, industry leaders in this field tell how far Australia is behind what is happening in the US. And here they are not talking about bandwidth across the Pacific Ocean!

Developments overseas suggest that companies will be forced to market through the Internet if they are to be successful. Rather than send salespeople out into the marketplace, the move is to use electronic means to make contact with clients, use Web sites for marketing, and encourage online ordering by clients.

During the year I have had the opportunity to visit other computer groups in Melbourne, to do presentations to industry and community groups, and also to one of the larger personnel recruitment companies. In every case I have stressed the need for everyone to become computer literate, as the computer has become the essential tool used today in so many ways.

An e-mail address is essential for quick and easy contact, and whatever field one works in, the ability to know how to make contact and transfer information by electronic means is one of the ways any potential job applicant will be judged. We are seeing the early days of Internet marketing, but this will become a basic method of advertising, purchasing, and selling in a relatively short time and it is essential that everyone becomes familiar with it.

Whatever your field of work, somewhere along the line computers will be involved. Executive staff may no longer have someone to do their typing, they have to be prepared and able to transfer their thoughts into a printed form by themselves. Calculators are a thing of the past—most employers now expect familiarity with using a spreadsheet! Almost every personnel consulting company insist on at least some basic knowledge of the basic office software.

When Melb PC started it provided a means whereby members could share their learning and experiences with others, using what we now consider pitifully slow equipment. What was then a field of experimentation is now the basic requirement for work.

Melb PC tries to help its members adapt to the changing times, with our magazine, our training courses, our SIGs, our Dial Help service, and our communications services. However we can only do this if we prepare ourselves for change, and adapt to the current needs of our members.

I hope the networking program we intend to introduce will help all members meet some of the problems we encounter today.

Vistors and visitees

Last year, with the help of Ian Felsenthal we introduced the scheme of members helping members in their own homes. This was developed to assist those who were not able to attend other meetings, or needed the "buddy system" of working with someone who had that little more knowledge

or experience than themselves.

This has continued to be a great success, and my thanks go to Ian for the wonderful job he has done. As might be expected there have been a few who have tried to take advantage of the scheme instead of attending a normal training course, or similar.

At the same time, I have been in many members' homes where illness or handicap prevents normal activity. The Internet has been a wonderful boon for many of these members by giving them the opportunity to converse, meet and make friends locally and overseas. The computer itself has helped them to explore new fields and maintain contact in more familiar ones. We are fortunate that such a tool is affordable to so many people, and the job of Melb PC is to continue to provide whatever assistance it can.

Orientation days

Another of the features we commenced last year still continues to introduce new and existing Melb PC members to the benefits available from our office and volunteers. We will continue with these days in the coming year.

These two-hour sessions frequently run to three hours, and from the questions asked it is obvious that many members are not fully aware of all the services we offer, and it has brought forward several new volunteers.

Often the highlight seems to be the visit to the BBS and Internet rooms, to see the equipment and the flashing lights, and gain some understanding of what happens at the other end of their phone line.

Dial Help assistance

Once again our deepest thanks go out to those volunteers who list themselves on the Dial Help pages. We will look to extending this in the coming year as it is becoming an increasingly important benefit for Melb PC members.

Following loss of regular employment, many members now set themselves up in the SOHO environment, providing full- or part-time services on a contract basis. It is quite different working by oneself after working in a large office and is likely to become more common in the future. Previously, while working with others there was probably someone nearby to answer a question, now you are working alone and the answer to a problem eludes you. To have someone you can ring and get a quick answer is a great boon, even more so when you find yourself doing a task that previously was done for you.

The Dial Help assistance has always been a major strength for Melb PC members, and I believe it will become even more important in the future.

Shareware

Once a major source of income, the sales of shareware today is often preempted by finding what is needed through the Internet. However not everyone has Internet access, and the Webster family of David, Glenn, Ian and Yvonne continues to maintain this excellent service for our members' benefit.

Their notes on new and updated shareware which appear each month in *PC Update* always make great reading for everyone who is interested in what is available. Somehow they search out all those files and the list each month stretches over many pages.

Volunteers

No Annual Report would be complete without recognising the extraordinary work that is provided by the willing volunteers who are the backbone of Melb PC.

There are those who assist in the office, the swap meets, the SIGs, *PC Update*, the Dial Help, the BBS and Internet teams, shareware—the list is almost endless. I salute you all, for without your generous help Melb PC would not exist.

In addition there is the Committee elected by the members who work so hard in your interests, but in addition usually act as the go-between for our various areas of activity and provide the representation to the Committee.

The volunteers' involvement would not have been possible without the support of their families, and we thank them for their tolerance and inconvenience caused by the contributions you make.

Towards Y2K

In the two years I have been President I have endeavoured to raise the professional perception of Melb PC. In all areas where we are exposed to the public we can only achieve our goals provided we are recognised for what we are.

That does not mean we cannot have fun doing it! However it must be remembered we have an income of \$1.25M, and we have valuable assets in the way of equipment and furnishings. We must adopt a responsible attitude to protect our members' property at all times.

Postscript

Just after completing this report, the nominations for the elections for the coming year were received. The only nominations received were by members of the current Committee. In a way this was very disappointing.

There are several ways of interpreting this, however I would like to think the reason is not a matter of disinterest by members, but that members are satisfied and happy with the way Melb PC is being run, and see no reason for a major change.

If this is so, may I assure all members that myself and the full Committee will continue to work in the same positive manner that we have in the past.

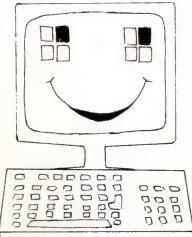
Best wishes to you all for the coming year,

Regards,



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Multimedia database

Information is part of our life and we depend on it to be delivered accurately and efficiently. We receive information from images, sound and video as well as the more traditional textual forms. Database systems are only beginning to provide an effective means to deal with these types of information representation.

Interest in databases that can deal effectively with multimedia data is growing. It is being driven by an increase in user expectations, improved communication technologies providing more bandwidth, faster and larger storage devices, better graphics, text processing, facsimile transmission and digitisers, to mention the most obvious. Today's users also have a natural appreciation of multimedia and the potential it offers to operate in a richer environment.

Useful images are being generated and employed at an ever-increasing rate because of increasingly affordable technology; sources include satellite, digital camera, video, X-ray, and scanners. The types of data needing database support are growing rapidly and this requires management techniques to retrieve and process it effectively and efficiently. Multimedia application systems, such as electronic publishing, teleconferencing and visual simulation, have already made their impact in our professional practices, and many more people are turning to multimedia to present their ideas.

A multimedia database management system is needed to use information effectively and efficiently from vast

image repositories. The evolving perspective of multimedia implementation and its distinct requirements make it unfeasible, or at least unwise, to use approaches that we know from classical data processing and query handling.

Multimedia database management systems

According to Orji [5], the majority of workshop participants at the 1995 International Workshop on Multimedia DBMS felt very strongly about the need for a multimedia DBMS. However, the rest of the participants believed that current DBMSs could handle storage and computational issues of data (traditional or multimedia). They believed that a strong front or back end presentation manager, external to the DBMS, which could be called upon to present multimedia data would suffice. This notation is based on the belief that issues of presentation always have been, and must remain, external to the DBMS.

The designers of early DBMSs saw no need for presentation because there was nothing to present. However, with the advent of multimedia data processing, there is a strong need to build a database management system that can handle multimedia data seamlessly from input to output. Presentation is the key to multimedia data processing and, for efficiency, the presentation manager must be a part of the multimedia DBMS.

Many commercially available DBMS already store text, images, and sound. However, most of "these systems do not offer integrated capabilities for building, updating and querying a presentation which combines and synchronise different kinds of data" [5, p.9].

According to Apers, Blanken and Houtsma [1], a database management system can be characterised by certain properties that the system exhibits when dealing with data. The kind of data that is dealt with and the operations that can be performed on it are determined by the data model upon which the system is based. The data properties and the data model together constitute the logical model on which the database is built (Table 1).

The more advanced database systems typically include extensions to provide some of the features of other system types, e.g. a multimedia database system often supports an object-oriented data model or an object-oriented database system supports a declarative query language.

The following properties are necessary to guarantee the consistency of data under the operations that are supported by the database:

- **Persistency**
The primary purpose of a database is to store data exceeding the life of the application program which created it
- **Decoupling of applications**
One of the central ideas of a database system is to modularise functionality that is generally required in the context of persistent data storage and to provide it in an application-independent manner

- **System interface**
In order to use the database system it must provide an appropriate interface to applications. The use of the interface must guarantee the consistency constraints that are given by the data model as represented in the database schema

- **Multi-user access**
Multiple users must be able to access the database through its interface simultaneously, while maintaining said consistency constraints

- **Recovery**
In case of failure of the data manipulation operations of an application

Table 1

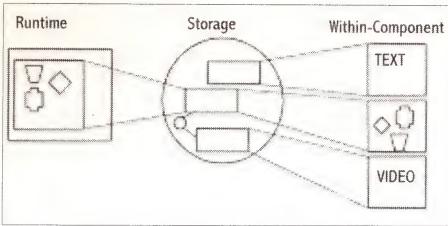


Figure 1

or the database system, a consistent state of the database must be recoverable.

"One specific need is for a clear and distinct separation between the database system's data model and the application's data model" [2, p.18]. This separation helps shift the role of managing multimedia information from the application to the database system, and hence enables easier application development and greater re-use of multimedia information. Therefore, it will make the information more globally available, provide a central and consistent data model, and expand the use of the multimedia.

Multimedia information consists of new classes of data types, they "represent information with both temporal and synchronisation characteristics, and

require that the data be delivered or displayed as time continuous streams" [2, p.19]. These new data types include video, audio, graphics, and animation. Multimedia information's "time continuous" nature is due to its presentational and representational characteristics.

According to Campbell and Chung [2], one way of integrating multimedia data and database systems is to use hypermedia models. The database manages the hypermedia document models adding user navigable semantics that link multimedia content elements together. This offers to make multimedia data types even more useful and typically separates presentational aspects from storage and management concerns.

There are many multiple hypermedia models. The generic "Dexter Hypermedia Model" (Figure 1) shows the general approach. It defines a three-layer model for multimedia document structuring. The runtime layer deals with presentation and user input issues, the storage layer provides an encapsulation mechanism for creating a content container object and also defines models for specifying links and composite

entities. The component layer stores the physical realisation of the multimedia content and its application and tool specific details.

The "HyTime" ISO standard model provides a method for presenting multimedia's temporal and spatial relationships as well as linking information. HyTime creates architectural document forms that are an extension of the Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML). The Multimedia Hypermedia Expert Group (MHEG) standard defines representation and encoding standards for multimedia and hypermedia objects as interchange definitions between applications or services.

Traditionally, database systems provide advantages over file-based storage and application based data modelling by providing logical and physical data independence, common data model access, security, backup, and recovery. They also "provide consistent data models across organisational and application boundaries" [2, p.22]. These are important goals for multimedia data management. One way to accomplish this is to provide a separation between

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the applications logical view of the data organisation and the physical organisation of the stored data.

"Today's multimedia database systems are like early database systems, which were difficult to use and inefficient due to the primitive interface between the application and the database system" [2, p.22]. Multimedia data management systems currently seem to have many problems, particularly owing to the close connection between the application and storage data model and the difficulty in creating access paths.

Figure 2 shows a view of applications accessing multimedia content from a database system.

The client application's MHEG document defines the multimedia contents presentational and relationship information, and makes a request to the multimedia database management system (MMDBMS). The MMDBMS then locates the content and, in conjunction with the client interface, initiates and performs a stream delivery. Furthermore, other applications can use the same multimedia data since the database system, not the local application(s), is responsible for maintaining the multimedia content.

The data model

"A data model is a collection of tools for describing data, data relationships, data semantics and constraints on data" [5, p.7]. A clearly defined data model that would facilitate the construction of a multimedia DBMS must capture the

storage and delivery properties of multimedia data.

"Having a common data model allows multiple applications to share data and creates a common and consistent repository of knowledge about the multimedia content stored in the database" [2, p.28]. Therefore, the selection of the data model is an important consideration in deciding how to integrate multimedia information and database systems.

Multimedia data modelling should support creating a model of the real world, its relationships and abstraction. It needs to provide support for a range of existing and future data types, and to include support for both temporal and spatial modelling while supporting these features in a fashion that maximises data abstraction. Abstraction and independence enables the database system to control redundancy by sharing data and minimising duplication.

There are currently four methods available for implementing a multimedia database management system.

Local storage

Today, many applications use files external to the database to store multimedia data. The application and operational systems directly manage both multimedia data and associated data models. The multimedia data is stored in one or more files on a local system drive. The advantages are ease of implementation and no serious delivery problems. There are few resource contentions, since only a single

system is attempting to access the data. The application is able to monitor and manage system resource utilisation totally and can predict system loads; no network or enterprise system delays are imposed on delivery of the data. However, there are significant disadvantages in that the application has to be updated once new data types are introduced, and older programs might not be able to read the new data. This leads to a lot of replicated data in an enterprise because data might not be shared and/or its availability may be limited in some way.

Local data are difficult to update since every machine must be individually updated. When data are actually located on a network file server then the problems of updating, replicated data and limited data access are reduced. However, now there are serious problems in managing the asynchronous nature of the data delivery.

Media server

A shared storage facility is analogous to a network file server with the added capability of delivering multimedia data. The first problem with a media server is that the application's document model is fixed to that physically on the media server. Changes to multimedia data storage formats force changes to all applications that access the data. Furthermore, the application still determines access methods.

Binary large object (BLOBs)

BLOBs integrate multimedia data into database systems. A BLOB is an untyped, typically long, variable length field that the database system uses to store multimedia data. The database stores the multimedia data as untyped data and simply delivers blocks of data to the application upon request.

A relational database stores multimedia data as an attribute of its relations. This provides some level of associative access and minimally integrates the multimedia data into the database schema. Including the BLOB in the schema enables associations to be maintained between the multimedia data and other data. "All the power of relational or extended relational database systems can be applied to managing the data and its relations, as long as the multimedia content is treated as a single large object" [2, p.25].

The problem with this approach is that the database does not have any information about the data that it can use for resources optimisation. The data is

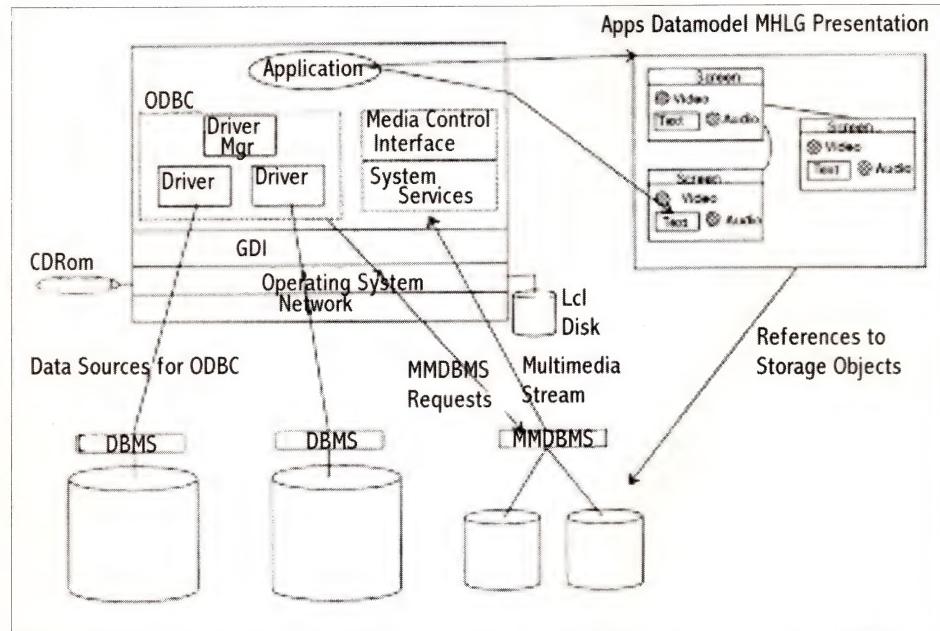


Figure 2

untyped and there is no method of working with or modifying its structure. The database, being unaware of the structure and associations, like composition, cannot apply delivery optimisation techniques.

Object-oriented methodologies

OO methodologies provide a framework for defining extensible user defined data types and the ability to support complex relationships in the object-oriented database. "Object-oriented techniques of encapsulation, inheritance and nested classes allow a standard set of functionality to be defined and then extended for different specific instances of multimedia data" [2, p.25]. These features allow applications to introduce, include and manage multimedia data. However, the object-oriented paradigm does not adequately solve all problems associated with multimedia management, specifically problems associated with storing, indexing, updating, retrieving, querying and controlling concurrency.

The advantage of the object-oriented approach is that the system has a better understanding of the multimedia data and its operations and behaviour.

Compared to BLOBS, the system has richer definitions of the format and semantics of the media that it can exploit in storing, managing and delivering the content. The system optimises the delivery and management of the multimedia data better. The application's document model and the database schema can be clearly separated and decoupled by well-defined classes. However, it does not come without problems. The system does not inherently provide the new technique and methods for the basic storage and management of multimedia data. Therefore, storage and retrieval methods still need to be developed and integrated into the system.

User interface

Stored data is not readily useful unless there are simple, efficient methods of gaining access to it. "A multimedia query language requires a rich set of features to support multimedia content specification and retrieval" [2, p.29]. A powerful query language greatly helps to maintain the desired independence between the database and the application. There are multiple levels of query languages ranging from simple object identifier based retrieval queries to

complex content understanding searches. The simplest query is a request to access and deliver a specific piece of multimedia content. More complex queries enable searches based on attributes and synchronisation relationships of the multimedia content.

Standards like SQL3 provide many object-oriented features and enable a wide range of database systems to directly support semantically rich multimedia content through the use of abstract data types, user defined functions and new basic data types. In addition to SQL3, the emerging SQL/MM is a user community defined set of multimedia-specific abstract data types that offers to bring rich commonality to the creation of native multimedia content support.

Query scripts

Multimedia applications involve a huge amount of data. Therefore, there is a need to develop new techniques for data processing. Since multimedia data contains a mixture of video, image, text and graphics data, an appropriate query language must be designed to specify these components accurately. Orji, Hirzalla and Karmouch [5] proposed a specification language for multimedia

The BASIC and Tiny Tiger control computers arrive in Australia

Tigers for Superb Control

Tigers are small, sealed modules a little larger than a matchbox, but providing inexpensive computer control for a range of applications.

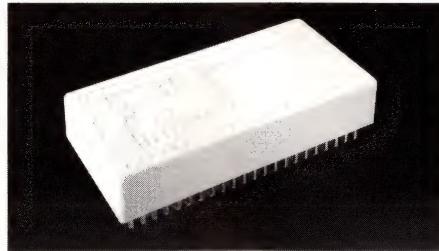
Inside the 44 pin module is a powerful microprocessor running at 20 MHz, dual UART-driven serial ports, 4 channel, 10-bit ADC, real-time clock/calendar with alarm, a complex 16-bit counter/timer system for pulse generation and measurement and two PWM channels. The Tiger supports an expanded address system accessing 1920 I/O bits.

There are two modules in production:

- BASIC Tiger, 44mm by 63mm by 12mm can have up to 4 MB of FLASH and 2 MB of CMOS RAM, with 38 I/O lines;
- Tiny Tiger, 28mm by 60mm by 11mm, with up to 512 kB FLASH, 512 kB RAM, and 36 universal I/O lines. (A 128K FLASH, 128KRAM Tiny Tiger is \$A162)

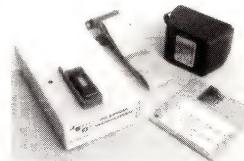
The emphasis is EASY PROGRAMMING. Tigers are programmed in compiled BASIC, with a W95/98/NT editing screen for entering the program, compiling it, and then down-loading it to the FLASH in the Tiger via an RS232 port. The program can then be single stepped, and variables examined remotely from the same user screen interface. The Tiger is fast and flexible, and handling 8, 16 and 32 bit integers as well as 64 bit REAL. (FP SIN takes 3 milliseconds!)

JED is producing a local, 11cm by 15cm Tiger control board with 24 IN, 24 OUT, LCD display and JBUS. Call for details.



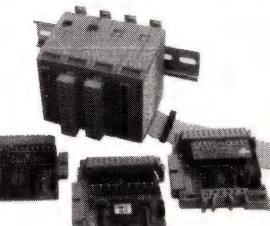
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query. This technique would enable retrieval of relevant multi segments from a database using their query language specification, "a user can pose a query to retrieve a multi segment consisting of text, video and audio segments" [5, p.11].

Clients use queries as their main interface for manipulating data in a database. "This interface plays a major role in maintaining independence between the client's view of the logical data model and the physical organisation of the data" [5, p.32]. Because of this in-

dependence, the database can physically organise the data for best performance without influencing the client's view of the data.

In a single user environment, these functions are simple to implement. In a multi-client environment, clients cannot perform complete optimisation since each client is unaware of the other client's requests. Only techniques like query scripts can examine all user requests and globally optimise them to ensure the best access plan to meet the set of deadlines.

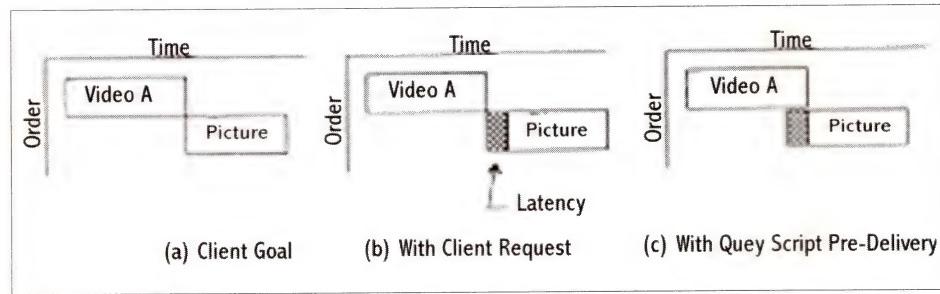


Figure 3

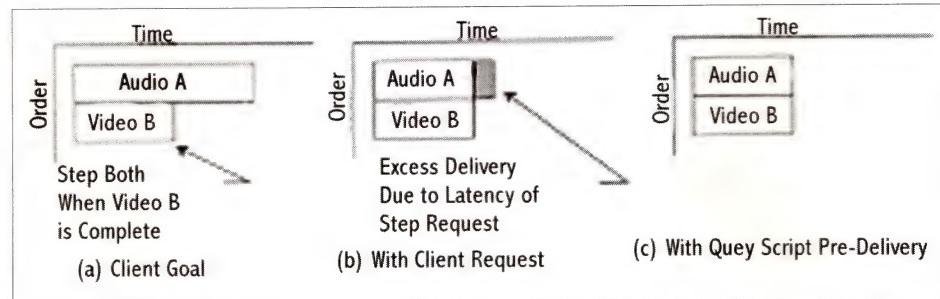


Figure 4

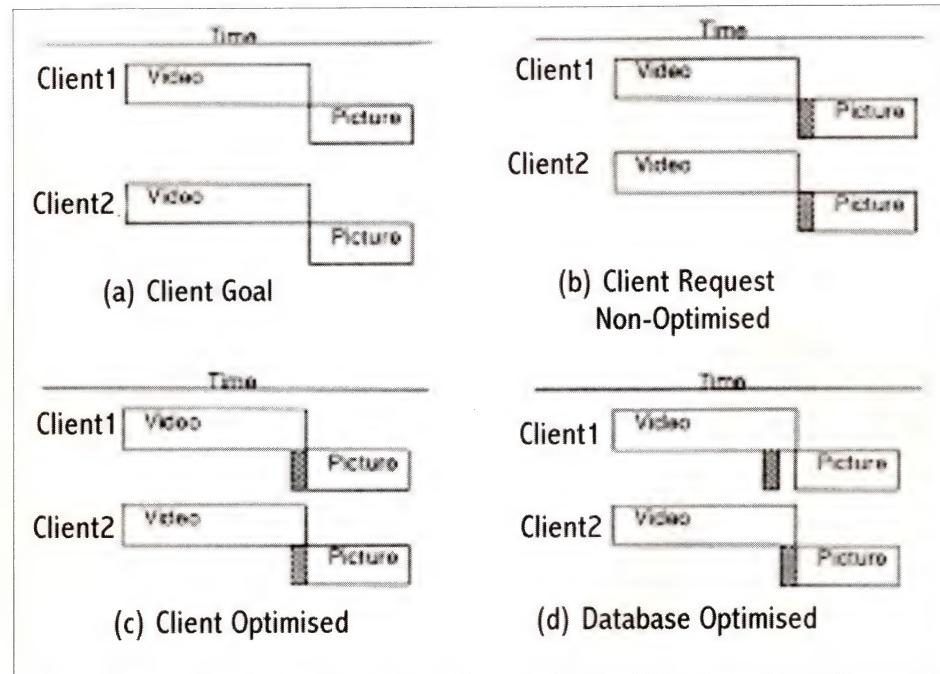


Figure 5

Using a query script has several attractive features. It can reduce the latency between object access, reduce the waste of system resources due to staggered endpoints, and provide better information for delivery scheduling.

Latency is reduced by providing the database system with *a priori* knowledge of future accesses via the query script. This enables the database to pre-deliver multimedia content objects. Figure 3 shows the client requesting a video object followed by a picture. Note that the latency resulting from the client's request for the picture at the conclusion of the video is reduced because the database knows that the picture is needed at the conclusion of the video.

Query scripts reduce the waste of the system resources by intelligently stopping the delivery of multimedia content to prevent the "stop-excess" problem. Consider a situation where the client needs two pieces of content of different length. The objects of Figure 4 are:

- An audio clip of length 40 seconds
- A video clip of length 20 seconds.

The client wants to stop the audio clip when the video clip ends. With the traditional request model, the client sends a stop command to the database when the video ends. However, due to latency, the database system will keep delivering data for the latency period, needlessly consuming system resources.

Query scripts enable database systems to better balance resource use by using pre-delivery techniques. The system has limited resources available to meet client requests and better information enables the database to pre-deliver content to balance the load. For instance, Figure 5 shows two clients requesting delivery of video followed by a picture. Note that if each client performs its own optimisation, the resulting requests can still collide. Optimal scheduling is not accomplished because each client is unaware of the other's requests. Query scripts enable the database system to schedule the two picture deliveries at separate times.

Offsetting the benefits of query scripts are a more complex and a less flexible user interaction. To manage the data, the database and the client need to work together closely. In traditional solutions the database delivers the data while the client handles the physical display of the video, audio and picture. Query scripts add additional client

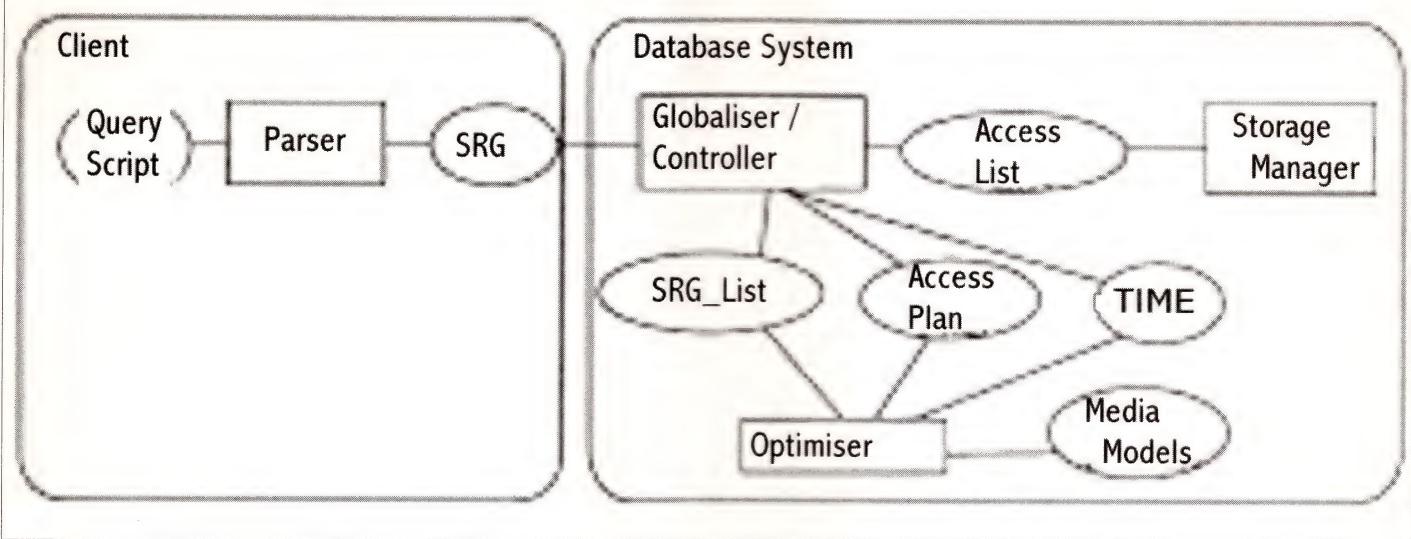


Figure 6

workload since the client must generate the script and then handle more management tasks associated with pre-delivery. Pre-delivery requires the client to buffer the picture while simultaneously receiving and presenting the video stream.

"Query scripts can lead to a loss of flexibility in user interaction" [2, p.36]. Interactive multimedia implies unpredictable user input. When the client issues single requests, the impact of client input is minimised as at most a single request needs to be cancelled or changed. However, interactive user operation can affect the processing of query scripts to a large degree, because they can be overruled by user input. To minimise this problem, the script should extend minimally into the future, but for maximum optimisation it should extend as far as possible.

Query scripts provide the database *a priori* knowledge about requests enabling the system to optimise access and delivery. This approach also provides enhanced logical/physical independence

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since the system has more management information available separate from the client's tools and applications.

Query scripts also sequence requests enabling the system to create a time-based access plan for retrieval of the requested content (Figure 6).

The query script language

Essentially a query script has two parts, declaration and temporal ordering. The declaration section of the script defines the involved multimedia content objects (MMCOs) by specifying object identifiers or content keywords. The temporal ordering section defines the timing relationships between the identified MMCOs. There are three possible temporal ordering actions: initiate a stream, wait for stream to complete, and terminate stream.

The script declaration section uses MMCOs as its primary objects. An MMCO is the basic storage unit that encapsulates single multimedia content for database storage. It encapsulates content elements like a video or sound sequence and each MMCO is associated with a specific media type.

A script realisation graph is the data structure transmitted to the database as a concise representation of the query. The graph structure determines the temporal ordering of the media and defines how streams are combined and eventually stopped. Once a multimedia stream is initiated, the system is committed to delivering that stream of media until it is complete. The database must make intelligent decisions to avoid over-committing system resources and causing interruptions. Good scheduling decisions will minimise instantaneous system resource requirements and this makes more resources available for other requests, providing more

opportunities for scheduling additional query scripts.

"The MMDBMS performs several layers of optimisation and traditionally optimisation cost is a serious factor" [2, p.41]. Once a query script is admitted and is in the database system's queue, it must be scheduled for delivery. The MMDBMS performs optimisation as it selects query scripts for initiation and schedules query scripts for delivery. Scheduling a query script for initiation at the end of all existing queries leads to an inefficient system because only one query script is executed at a time. A better approach is to schedule the query script to begin at the earliest time possible so that multiple scripts can be executed concurrently.

Conclusion

It is possible to use existing DBMSs for multimedia databases by adding external presentation front ends for multimedia applications. However, building and integrating the presentation manager into the database will clearly improve the overall performance.

There is still a need for further research and development in multimedia database management systems. Currently available hardware technology appears adequate for existing demands, but there are many unsolved problems in multimedia data processing and presentation and the debate over the need for a multimedia DBMS and its structure will continue for many years to come.

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*John Swale,
Secretary*

1997 AGM minutes

*Minutes of 14th Annual General Meeting
of Melbourne PC User Group
Incorporated, held on Wednesday 3
December 1997 at 6.45 pm at Pharmacy
College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.*

1. Minutes

Motion: "That the minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting as published in the December 1997 edition of *PC Update* be accepted as a true and correct record."

Moved: Peter Houghton
Seconded: Don James
Carried

Motion: "That the minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting as published be approved as a true and correct record."

Moved: Morris Tobias
Seconded: Gary Taig
Carried

2. President's Report

Motion: "That the President's Report as published in the December 1997 edition of *PC Update* be accepted as the President's Report."

Moved: George Skarbek
Seconded: John Swale
Carried

Motion: "That the President's Report as published be received."

Moved: Peter Strasser
Seconded: George Skarbek
Carried

3. Accounts

Motion: "That the Treasurer's Report as published in the November 1997 edition of *PC Update* be accepted as a record of the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30th June 1997 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30th June 1997."

Moved: Dianne Cummings
Seconded: Gary Taig
Carried

Motion: "That the statement pursuant to section 30(3) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 containing the Income and Expenditure of the Group for the year to 30th June 1997 and the assets and liabilities of the Group at 30th June 1997 be accepted."

Moved: George Skarbek
Seconded: John Swale
Carried

4. Appointment of Auditor

Moved: "That Peter G. Salter, Registered Company Auditor (the Group's current Auditor) be re-appointed to the position."

Moved: Robin Howells
Seconded: Don Green
Carried

5. Election of Committee of Management

As there were insufficient nominations to require an election the Returning Officer, Peter Smith, declared the following positions filled:

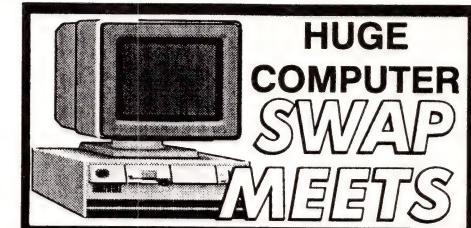
Executive positions

- President Stan Johnstone
- Vice-President Morris Tobias
- Treasurer Bill Ford
- Secretary Gary Taig

Committee positions

(In alphabetical order.)

- Carol Daniels
- Joe Henry
- Barry Martin
- John Morris
- Ash Nallawalla



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Sunday 10th January

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Sunday 17th January

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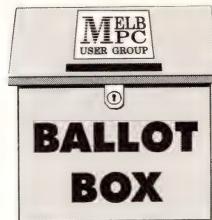
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Nominations for Committee

The AGM and election of office bearers will be held on Wednesday 4 December 1998 at 6.30 pm at Pharmacy College, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. The following members have nominated for the positions indicated.

Candidate for President

Stan Johnstone

Proposer: George Skarbek
Seconder: Morris Tobias
Address: 13 Thomasina St, Bentleigh East

In these changing times, Melb PC plays an increasingly important role in assisting members by providing help and services that may not be available or affordable elsewhere.

It requires the co-operation of a dedicated and unified Committee working together to achieve the results essential for maintaining and extending the benefits available to our members.

Only by working as a team can your Committee ensure our continued success, and your vote or proxy is crucial for the election of a strong committee that will continue to serve you in the coming year.

For the action members need, re-elect the current team!

Candidate for Vice-President

Morris Tobias

Proposer: John Swale
Seconder: R Barry Martin
Address: 6 Los Angeles Crt, Ripponlea

I have now served Melb PC three times as Vice-President, also as a Committee member in 1987/8. As a part of a vibrant, active and stable Committee, this year we have dealt with many pressing issues to improve Melb PC's future. I remain fully committed to guiding Melb PC in looking after its members. Whilst attending Comdex in Las Vegas for business purposes, I have also attended the last five APCUG con-

ventions. This association continues to stimulate User Groups, exchange and introduce new ideas for all user groups, and provide the opportunity to develop contacts with supporting vendors.

Candidate for Secretary

John Swale

Proposer: Geoff Hicks
Seconder: Peter Smith
Address: 9 Larbert Ave, North Balwyn

As a founding member I have seen Melb PC grow from a small group, to a significant small business. I have tried to repay the help I have received over those years by serving as Treasurer in the early days, and over the last 10 years by writing Random Access in *PC Update*. Now I have re-joined the Committee as Secretary, where I am looking at ways to increase membership and the services we offer.

I seek your support in keeping the "users helping users" process alive while adding the business controls necessary to keep it running smoothly.

Candidate for Treasurer

William Ford

Proposer: Stan Johnstone
Seconder: R Barry Martin
Address: 51 Mary St, Hawthorn

Most of my working life has been spent as Chief Financial Officer, Secretary or CEO for several organisations in the business and not-for-profit sectors.

A Melb PC member since 1991, over the past three years I have been a Committee member, Secretary, and then Treasurer since December 1997. I have a thorough understanding of the business management and financial affairs of the Group, and this knowledge and expertise complements the variety of experience of other committee team members.

The members of the Committee recognise my willingness and expertise, and I seek your endorsement to continue my work for Melb PC.

Candidates for Committee (in alphabetical order)

Carol Daniels

Proposer: R Barry Martin
Seconder: Brian Horman
Address: 55 Ross St, Toorak

Am I really standing for Committee again? Yes.

Why? Because I can't think of a more rewarding way to give life to the spirit of "users helping users" that underpins user groups world wide.

This year, I have had the satisfaction of working with an especially strong team of volunteers. The Committee, made up of new faces and some of Melb PC's most well known members, worked together as a unified team in 1998. I would be honoured to have the opportunity to serve you, the members, with this illustrious team in 1999.

Joe Henry

Proposer: Brian Horman
Seconder: Carol Daniels
Address: 53 Campbell St, Castlemaine

I joined the Committee just over a year ago and bring to the Committee over eleven years of Melb PC membership experience and five years helping to run the Bendigo SIG.

As a Committee member and SIG Co-ordinator, I plan to:

- Represent all members both in Melbourne and the regional areas
- Visit and assist the SIGs.

After I attend the APCUG Fall Round Table and COMDEX in Las Vegas, I will visit SIGs and report to members what I have experienced.

I look forward to your support, to allow me to work on your behalf.

Brian K Horman

Proposer: John Swale
Seconder: Joe Henry
Address: 20 Pyngerra Crs, Cheltenham

I have been a member of Melb PC since 1992, and joined the Committee at the beginning of this year.

Since 1953 I have run my own business in the audio recording field, and an importer of professional audio equipment with offices in most Australian capital cities. I have been using computers as a business tool since 1978.

I am currently the President of the Moorleigh U3A group (University of the Third Age), and joined the Committee believing my business expertise would be of use to Melb PC.

R Barry Martin

Proposer: Joe Henry
Seconder: Morris Tobias
Address: 12 Devon Drv,
Blackburn

I have been a member of Melb PC since 1993, and I was invited to join the Committee in September 1997. I am a system consultant and have worked in information technology since 1974.

As personal computers become more powerful, operating systems and applications more complex, Melb PC has an increasingly important role in providing services and support to PC users. The continuation and expansion of appropriate SIGs and services such as Internet, BBS and telephone assistance is my mission critical. This will maintain the relevance of the Group, and enhance its attractiveness and marketability to new members.

Ash Nallawalla

Proposer: Bill Ford
Seconder: George Skarbek
Address: Burke St, Werribee

Life Member, Managing and Reviews Editor, Webmaster, former Vice-President, and other titles since 1988. Members benefit through our Internet Service that I started and the links I established with other groups and vendors.

I would next like to help form trade- and profession-centric networks among our members so they may share computing and professional experiences.

Our \$1M organisation and award-winning magazine were no accident. We need businesslike managers, not technicians. My background is marketing and RAAF officer. Give Stan your proxy to ensure continued sound management. Your vote is vital.

George Skarbek

Proposer: Morris Tobias
Seconder: Bill Ford
Address: 2 Tiuna Crt,
Glen Waverley

Having enjoyed being a member of Melb PC virtually since inception I would like continue to contribute by standing again for Committee.

Working with the energetic and coherent team led by Stan Johnstone will permit the group to grow further with financial and management stability. Running my computer consulting company allows me to know the problems experienced by users while writing for *The Age* will allow me to publicise the Group's activities to boost membership.

Appointments

Since there is only one nomination for each of the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, those members nominated will be declared elected at the AGM, in accordance with the Group's rules.

As there are fewer nominations for the ordinary members of the Committee than there are vacancies, those members nominated will be declared elected at the AGM, in accordance with the Group's rules.

There will be two vacant committee positions. Rule 23 (4) (b) states:

Where insufficient nominations are received to fill all the vacancies for the ordinary members of the Committee, each candidate nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations for the vacancies then remaining shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.

Accordingly nominations for up to two ordinary members of the Committee will be accepted at the AGM.

Any such nomination should be signed by the nominee and two other financial members.

If there are fewer than two nominations, the remaining vacancies will be filled by the incoming Committee in accordance with the rules regarding casual vacancies.

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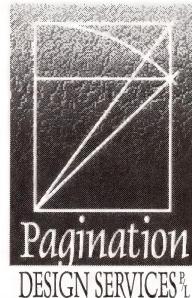
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Why not join Melb PC?

Melb PC is many things to many people, after all it is the second largest user group in the world! Although each of our thousands of members has a unique experience of Melb PC, we have a common belief in the value of computer users helping other computer users.

Helping them do what?

The list is almost endless — some of the things Melb PC is best known for are:

• Supporting

Practical and emotional support. Whether you're trying to install a new operating system, hard drive, word processor or flight simulator, someone at Melb PC has been there and done that. You may find a whole group of people who meet regularly to discuss the very problem you are experiencing.

• Meeting

One of the ways Melb PC helps its members support each other is through meetings. Within its diverse membership you'll find novices, old hands and everyone in between. Whatever you're trying to do, there's someone to help you. As a member of Melb PC, you'll also have the opportunity to meet industry leaders and technical experts representing major software and hardware vendors. They'll answer your questions and demonstrate the latest developments in computing technology, often before the general public gets the news.

• Teaching, learning and enjoying

As an organisation, Melb PC with its range of skills and knowledge provides a range of formal and informal opportunities for teaching and learning new computing skills.

So whatever you use a computer for, Melb PC helps you enjoy it more!

How?

Melb PC's greatest strength is its membership. With more than 11,500 members, it is the world's second largest PC User Group. It was founded in 1984, and is still run by and for its members, people like you.

Although Melb PC employs some staff, most functions from writing and editing the group's magazine, to maintaining the group's online services, organising monthly meetings, etc, are performed by volunteers.

Who belongs to Melb PC?

Anyone who uses a computer at work, school or play. Parents, children, grandparents and singles. Beginners, old hands, youngsters, oldsters and inbetweeners. Teachers, students, business operators, secretaries, CEOs, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, electricians, builders, pilots, writers, editors, engineers, journalists, accountants and more!

You name it, Melb PC's members do it. Your membership is your key to a vast store of knowledge, an invaluable information resource and help in many fields.

Your benefits of membership come to you in many ways throughout the year:

• PC Update

Eleven times a year, Melb PC's magazine, *PC Update* brings you news about computer hardware, software and how your fellow members use these to achieve their goals. You'll read about members' experiences, learning from their successes and mistakes. Each issue also covers the group's regular activities and any special "members only" events or offers the group has arranged. Your yearly membership, which includes *PC Update* delivered to you, costs about as much as it would to buy a year's issues over the counter.

• Computer First-Aid and Dial Help

Free vendor support is scarcer every year. It's no wonder many members find these two services, alone, worth the cost of membership. These are "members only" services. Experienced volunteers share their time and knowledge to help fellow members work through problems. Just knowing there is someone to call gives some members the courage to try something new.

• Internet Access

The Internet is the foundation of the communication revolution and the key to success in the new millennium. Melb PC pioneered the provision of affordable Internet access and remains an acknowledged leader offering very competitively priced Internet access to members.

The fast and reliable service provides connection speeds up to 56 kbps, with pre-configured software for ease of installation, helpful technical support, and is constantly evolving in pace with emerging technology.

• Training

Whether you're an absolute beginner planning to buy your first computer or a power user looking to update your skills, Melb PC has a training course for you. Most

courses are hands on, conducted in Melb PC's own, modern, Pentium-equipped training centre. These courses are "members only" so they are cost-competitive compared to similar courses elsewhere. Each month *PC Update* contains details of forthcoming courses.

• Meetings

Our main monthly meetings include presentations by leading computer hardware and software vendors to Melb PC members and their guests.

Speakers have included industry giants such as Bill Gates, Philippe Kahn and Gordon Eubanks, as well as the CEOs and senior managers from most major Australian and overseas vendors. Members can win software worth thousands of dollars at these meetings.

The monthly meeting provides an opportunity to ask questions and get to know your fellow members better. With an average of 400 members attending, the meetings are great for exploring your fellow members' problem-solving skills.

• SIGs

If big groups aren't for you, or if you have a special interest, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) may be your thing. A SIG can deal with any topic, from a particular application to hardware, programming, or how to get the best from your equipment. Check a current issue of *PC Update* for meeting dates, locations, contact information and information about future events.

• Bulletin Board

For members not quite ready for the Internet, Melb PC operates a free, multi-line bulletin board system (BBS). The BBS has a large collection of shareware and freeware programs for members to download. Members also use the BBS to send messages to other members.

• Reference and Software Libraries

Books and magazines are available for members to browse or borrow. An extensive range of shareware and freeware programs are reviewed in *PC Update* and are available on disk from the shareware library.

•

Whether you are an individual, family or company, one thing is clear. If you want to get the most from your computing experience, a Melb PC membership is a must.

Melb PC Membership Application/Renewal

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Membership number (if renewing)

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Last name

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by its rules while I am a member.

Signature

Date

Membership details

Type	New	Renewal	Amount
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	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Corporate (two representatives, extra representatives at \$60 each)	\$130 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$60 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Student or Pensioner (see notes)	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	\$50 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

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Top choice shareware

These are some of the most popular volumes in the Melb PC Shareware/ Freeware library. Refer to the regular catalogue updates in *PC Update* for up-to-date listings of other disks—use the lower part of this order form for your choice from those listings.

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List	1490		
McAfee VirusScan for DOS	8018		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 3.x (3-disk set)	8897-8899		
McAfee VirusScan for Windows 95 (4-disk set)	8893-8896		
MS-DOS 6.22 Stepup from 6.0 (3-disk set)	8110-8112		
PKZip/PKUnzip	1235		
Real Audio Player for Windows 3.x	8364		
Real Audio Player for Windows 95	8592		
Telix for DOS	8062		
Telix for Windows v1.00 (2-disk set)	8129-8130		
Wolfenstein Fighting Street Fighter II	8012		
Melb PC Internet kit (special price) Windows 3.x @ \$10 per set (3-disk set)	8711-8713		
Melb PC Internet Setup Master (Win 95/98)	9192		
Postage/Packing is included. Costs: first disk (per order) \$5, second disk \$4, third and subsequent disks \$3 each			Total: <input type="text"/>

I am under 15 years of age Signature:

under 18 years of age
 over 18 years of age

Payment Details/Credit Card Authority Forward to Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205, Australia

I enclose a cheque made payable to Melbourne PC User Group Inc. (A0003293V) for \$ <input type="text"/>	Date <input type="text"/>
Please debit my: Bankcard <input type="text"/> Visa <input type="text"/> MasterCard <input type="text"/> with \$ <input type="text"/>	Card expiry date <input type="text"/>
Card number <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Business hours phone number (<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card holder's name <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>

Buy your diskettes from Melb PC

Order details			
Brand/Size	Cost (Box of 10)	Number of boxes	Value
Memorex 5.25-inch HD (1.2 MB)	\$12.50	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Memorex 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$15.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Generic preformatted 3.5-inch HD (1.44 MB)	\$5.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postage and packing	\$5 per order:	<input type="text"/>	\$5.00
Enclose a cheque or use the credit card authority below			Total: \$ <input type="text"/>

Important: Please complete the following for both shareware and diskette orders.

Member details	
Name <input type="text"/>	
Membership number: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Delivery details	
Delivery Address <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
State <input type="text"/>	Postcode <input type="text"/>

Delivery details

Internet access application form

Instructions

- Please **read** the entire form. It may be photocopied.
- Complete **every** field else it might be returned to you. Each field has a purpose, which includes updating our database.
- Enclose a cheque or authorise a charge against your credit card for the requisite amount. Send the form with payment to Melbourne PC User Group
PO Box 283
South Melbourne VIC 3205

Description of service

- **General.** The Melbourne PC User Group Inc A0003293V (Melb PC) Internet Service network (the Network) is a private telecommunications network owned and operated by Melb PC for its members. It is administered by the Internet Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) as a subscriber-funded service.
- **Function of the Melb PC Network.** The primary function of the Network is to support the free transfer of information to and from Melb PC members, subject to the terms of our Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Standard Service.** SLIP/PPP accounts.
- **Features:**
 - Electronic Mail.
 - We also provide access to other services that are found on the Internet but they are not under our control.
- **Charges.** Annual fee \$140, subject to change from time to time.
- **Limits and Quotas.** Up to 120 minutes access per day (non-cumulative). A bank of modems is made available with a time limit of 30 minutes for the benefit of users who need to check their mail and get off quickly. The Mail quota is 4 MB. Excess mail may be deleted.
- **Access Software.** You will need to acquire and configure suitable software from our Shareware library or other resources.
- **Accounts.** Accounts are issued only to individuals, not company names. Melb PC may reject an application without stating a reason.
- **Support.** Volunteers offer their help in local newsgroups, via our free Bulletin Board Service, or by telephone.
- **Training.** Melb PC offers training courses.
- **Duration.** The subscription to the Network is for one year from the date of acceptance. It automatically terminates upon expiry of membership of Melb PC.
- **Acknowledgment.** Successful applicants will include individuals whose forms are correctly filled out and whose funds have been transferred to our bank account.
- **Net Etiquette.** Melb PC endorses adherence to ("net etiquette" or "netiquette") as deemed by the subcommittee from time to time.

Internet access agreement

Definitions

"**Melb PC**" means The Melbourne PC User Group Incorporated A0003283V or its assignee; "**the subscriber**" means the Melb PC member making this application;

"**family subscriber**" refers to an existing Melb PC Family Member, or a member of the family residing at the same address who applies for Melb PC Family Membership at this same time, paying the additional \$10 Melb PC membership in addition to the Internet subscription;

"**Internet access**" means access to the World Wide Web, Internet e-mail and any additional Internet facilities Melb PC may offer to its members from time to time, but unless Melb PC agrees otherwise does not include supply or maintenance of the subscriber's equipment, software or telephone line, or technical support;

"**subscription period**" means the period in advance for which the subscriber has paid in full, being one of the periods of subscription offered by Melb PC from time to time;

1. The subscriber asks Melb PC to provide Internet access and Melb PC agrees to do so.
2. This agreement starts when an authorised officer of Melb PC has executed it and Melb PC has received cleared payment for the subscription period.
3. Subject to the early termination clauses of this agreement and to clause 4, this agreement continues until the end of the subscription period.
4. If Melb PC and the subscriber renew this agreement for a further subscription period, this agreement applies to the renewed subscription period unless the parties agree otherwise in writing.
5. The subscriber acknowledges that:
 - a. Continuity and speed of the Internet access depends on a wide range of factors, many of which are beyond the control of Melb PC;
 - b. Melb PC has no control over the accuracy or appropriateness of any information on the Internet;
 - c. Melb PC is not responsible for any material available on the Internet;
 - d. The subscriber's Internet access may be interrupted by equipment failure, the need for routine maintenance, peak demand and so on;
 - e. Melb PC cannot guarantee that the subscriber will be able to secure access at any given time, or that fluctuations in demand by other subscribers will not prevent the subscriber from using the full amount of the maximum daily time allowance on any given day.
6. Subject to matters of the kind referred to in the previous clause and to the subscriber's access limits, Melb PC will use its best endeavours to keep Internet access available continuously and to allow the subscriber to have access for the current daily time allowance from time to time.
7. The subscriber indemnifies Melb PC against any liability, claim, action, suit, demand, loss, cost or expense arising out of or in any way connected with this agreement or Internet access, including any negligence by Melb PC, its servants or agents.
8. The subscriber will pay fees according to Melb PC's standard pricing list from time to time, and a copy of the list certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the prices applicable at any time.
9. Melb PC may make rules for the use by the subscriber of Internet access, including rules as to online time limits, transmission volume limits, excess usage fees, terms of payment and any other matter at all that Melb PC considers desirable, provided that there shall be no reduction in the access time of the subscriber during any period for which the subscriber has paid in advance unless the service provided by Melb PC has been or is to be enhanced so as to make up for any lost value. Melb PC may alter the rules on not less than fourteen days notice to the subscriber. A copy of the rules certified by an officer of Melb PC is conclusive evidence of the rules applicable at any time. The rules from time to time will apply as if they were set out in full as terms of this agreement.
10. The subscriber must not deliberately or recklessly do anything that damages Melb PC's equipment, software, setup or services.
11. The subscriber must not use Internet access to annoy, harass or harm other Internet users.
12. The subscriber must not use Internet access for any unlawful purpose or in any unlawful manner.
13. The subscriber will keep safe and confidential any access numbers, codes or passwords allotted to them by Melb PC and notify Melb PC without delay of any disclosure of those things.
14. Melb PC may terminate the subscriber's Internet access immediately if the subscriber breaches this agreement or the rules, or fails to promptly pay any money owed to Melb PC, or ceases to be a member of Melb PC.
15. Subject to the previous clause, either party may terminate this agreement by 14 days' notice to the other save that Melb PC must not terminate this agreement while the subscriber has credit for advance payment of fees without refunding a pro rata part of those fees or making alternative Internet access arrangements for the subscriber, and termination by the subscriber does not affect any debt owed to Melb PC at the time of termination.
16. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks that is unauthorised, unlawful, obscene, dangerous, excessive in volume, uncollected for an excessive period, or in an unauthorised place.

17. Melb PC may delete without notice any material found on its storage disks without giving any reason for doing so.
18. Melb PC may make and keep any record it requires for the purpose of this agreement or the rules or for the operation of its services.
19. The Description of Service, Internet Access Agreement, and the services as described on this application form constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and neither of them relies on any term, condition, warranty, collateral contract, representation or promise not set out in those parts of this application forms.
20. Any notice given about any matter concerning this agreement may be given by fax, e-mail or post at the last fax number, e-mail or postal address notified to the sender and is deemed to have been received at the time when it would have arrived in the ordinary course of the relevant type of transmission.
21. The subscriber must not transfer, sell or share Internet access rights, or allow the account to be used by any other person, other than those Melb PC Family Members who are listed on this application and have paid the relevant charges.
22. The user's last name must be displayed in all mail and news messages. The user's first name or initials may be displayed as desired.
23. Commercial traffic, in the form of private messages and advertisements in newsgroups designated for that purpose, is permitted within the bounds of net etiquette.
24. The *Organization*: field in private electronic mail or public newsgroup article headers must always be *Melbourne PC User Group, Australia*, the name of the service provider. Any other organisation or business name is permitted only in the four-line (maximum) "signature" text that is optionally inserted at the end of the message or article.
25. Connection of any networking system or device that permits multiple users to share one account simultaneously is not permitted.
26. The *From*: field used in mail and news messages must be the Melb PC assigned user name, e.g. *jjones@melbpc.org.au* not the address where a reply is sought, e.g. *jjones@pobox.com.au*. Such an arrangement should be managed by use of the *Reply-To* field.
27. Melb PC may assign its rights and obligations under this agreement to an Internet access provider that is of equal standard to Melb PC, and after notice of assignment is given to the subscriber, this agreement shall have operation as if it had been entered into between the assignee and the subscriber and Melb PC's rights (except for its right to recover any money owed to it immediately before the assignment) and obligations under this agreement shall be at an end.
28. The parties submit to the law of Victoria, Australia in relation to any the interpretation of this agreement, or any dispute arising out of it.

Service required and payment

Primary Subscription	\$ 140.00
Additional Family Subscribers	\$
..... @ \$5.00 each	\$
Melb PC Internet Kit software	\$
Windows 3.x version @ \$10.00	\$
Melb PC Win 95/98 setup @ \$5.00	\$
Total	\$

Tick

- Cheque for above total is enclosed.
or
 Debit my card with \$.....
 Bankcard / MasterCard / Visa

Expires:/.....

Number:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Applicant details

First Name:

Last Name:

Membership Number:

Postal Address:

.....

Postcode:

Telephone (day): (.....)

Telephone (evening): (.....)

Job Title:

Employer:

Tick

My age is: 18 or above. Below 18.
I hereby apply for the Internet service described on this and the previous page

Signature:

Additional Family Members who will share the one account/user name:

Name

Signature

Name

Signature

Name

Signature

Applicant(s) to complete (CAPITALS, please)

Parent/guardian to complete

(If any of the applicants is below the age of 18)
I am the parent/guardian of an applicant. I am aware of the nature of information available through the Internet and support this application.

Name:

Telephone (day) (.....)

Signature:

User name

List below the user ("login") names you would like, in order of preference, up to eight lowercase characters and/or numerals. Write very clearly, to avoid our confusing certain letters. User names are expressed in lowercase letters and numbers and must represent your real name in some recognisable way, e.g. "John J. Jones" might request user names such as "john", "johnj", "jones", etc.

Any user name that is already allocated or deemed unsuitable in the opinion of the system administrators will not be allocated. Preferred full name (e.g. *John J Jones* or *Jones Family*), to be recorded on the system.

.....

Previous name (if to be changed):

--	--	--	--	--

Choice 1:

--	--	--	--	--

Choice 2:

--	--	--	--	--

Choice 3:

--	--	--	--	--

Choice 4:

--	--	--	--	--

Choice 5:

--	--	--	--	--

Office use only

Tick as applicable:

Form and fee correct

Parent of underage applicant contacted (date)/...../199...

Membership database checked and updated

Incomplete form returned to sender (date)/...../199...

Acknowledgment returned to sender (date)/...../199...

Initials of office staff:

*Discounts from
members and
advertisers*



If you are a member or advertiser offering a discount on goods or services to Melb PC members, on production of their membership cards, please contact the office to register your offer, which will then be listed in future issues of PC Update.

Discounts for members

Computer service, parts, support, etc

Austral Data Processing Services

Forest Hill
Ph: 9894 0199
Fax: 9894 7688
20%—(not hardware) on consultancy, data backup/storage, maintenance.

Batterymaster

Murrumbeena
Ph: 9563 8460
Fax: 9579 4844
15%—batteries for laptop computers.

Bayside PC Services

Mentone
Ph: 9585 1645
10%—selected services.

Calculator King

St Kilda Road
Ph: 9866 8753
Fax: 9820 9652
10%—all calculators (inc. scientific/financial and speciality). Personal Organisers: Sharp, Casio, HP, Psion.

Compatible Toner and Ink

North Carlton
Ph: 9388 9744
Fax: 9388 9755
15%—Re-manufactured laser printer cartridges and inkjets.

Greensborough Computers

Greensborough
Ph: 9434 6166
Fax: 9434 6033
20%—(labour only) on repairs and upgrades for individual Melb PC Members. 5% on some models of new PC Systems (please enquire).

Metropolis Corp. Pty Ltd

Ferntree Gully
Ph: 9752 4242
Fax: 9752 3777
10%—computer systems (incl. free 24-hour software/technical support.) \$35 per hour for maintenance/support

Modem SuperStore

Box Hill
Ph: 9899 4744
Fax: 9897 3939
5%—Melb PC Member's special discount.

Moon-Ess Computers
Essendon
Ph: 9326 2776
Fax: 9326 2797
10%—service and repairs, new & secondhand parts & systems.

Mountain Visions
Pty Ltd
Sunshine North
Ph/Fax: 9310 1063
10%—on labour only— customised software, hardware & software consulting, maintenance, on-site training.

Nucleus Computer Services Pty Ltd
Carnegie
Ph: 9569 1388
Fax: 9569 1540
10%—on all services on equipment.

PCLC Computers
Heathmont
Ph/Fax: 9870 3288
20%—labour on upgrades, 5% on some new systems.

Pollock Computer & Technical Services
Hampton
Ph: 9533 5002
Fax: 9598 3186
20%—Personal PC tuition & problem solution.

The Power of 2, Software and Marketing
Pakenham
Ph: 5940 2020 BH & AH
10%—registered copies of Brothers Keeper genealogy software. Local support, manuals & supply of updates. \$75 plus postage.

Stone Computer Installations
Ph: 9315 0095
Mob: 0412 099 538
25%—Hardware/software installation, internet set up and problem solutions.

Summit Computers
Lilydale
Ph: 9739 6269
Fax: 9735 0503
20%—on labour (service, networks, etc), 6%—hardware & software.

Books, magazines, software, etc

Advanced Computer Products

St. Albans
Ph: 9364 1886
Fax: 9367 3639
20%—all computer books & software.

Capricorn Programming Services
Frankston
Ph: 9775 5377
Fax: 9774 5434
10%—on Scanlab Vol.1 Antivirus & virus education kit.

Collins Booksellers

(Technical and Academic Centre)
Melbourne
Ph: 9654 3144
10%—computer books.

Computer Book Company
Mt Evelyn
Ph: 9737 0411
Fax: 9737 0433
20%—all computer books, mail order.

Cybec Pty Ltd
Glen Iris
Ph: 9825 5600
Fax: 9884 0844
E-mail: info@vet.com.au
10%—Vet Anti-Virus Software.

Dymocks, Shop 2

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 1344
Fax: 9663 1581
10%—computer books, not on magazines.

Dymocks

Westfield Shopping Town, Doncaster
Ph: 9848 7209
Fax: 9848 7307
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Frankston
Ph: 9770 0300
Fax: 9770 0400
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Fountain Gate
Ph: 9796 6459
Fax: 9796 6509
10%—computer books.

Dymocks

Pran Central, Prahran
Ph: 9510 2100
Fax: 9519 2520
10%—computer books.

Trevor Gibbs

Melton
Ph: 9743 8917
15%—books: "Windows Whys" and "Easy DOS It", \$16.95 ea, \$32 for both. Incl diskettes.

ITS Information Technology Systems

Greenvale
Ph/Fax: 9333 2197
20%—computer books, Educational Software.

Mace Booksellers and Stationers

Mount Waverley
Ph: 9807 1899
10%—computer books.

McGills Authorised Newsagency

Melbourne
Ph: 9602 5566
10%—computer books.

Polyester Books

Fitzroy
Ph: 9419 5223
Fax: 9419 5451
10%—on all fiction, science, computer & non-fiction titles, magazines, comics & T-shirts.

RMIT Bookshop

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 5855
Fax: 9663 7528
10%—all books.

Technical Book and Magazine Company

Melbourne
Ph: 9663 3951
10%—computer books.

The Worsley Press

Hastings
Freecall: 1800 622 805
Ph/Fax: 5979 1112
E-mail:
info@worsleypress.com
10%—& free postage.

Other services

Adept Accounting and Taxation

Mill Park
Ph: 9436 7604
10%—on all taxation return preparation & business accounting services.

Blinds of Best Value

Oakleigh South
Ph: 9562 7788
Fax: 9562 7757
15%—top quality vertical, holland, venetian, timber venetian blinds and shutters, and all types of awnings.

EasyRSVP

Werribee
Ph: 015 541 253
Fax: 9742 4566
http://easyrsvp.com
10%—on all corporate and wedding RSVP forms.

Heal Your Life Astrology

Marysville
Ph: 5963 3626
Fax: 5963 3737
10%—on all birthchart consultations

Mediware Applications

Camberwell
Ph: 9889 9234
Fax: 9889 9236
5%—(purchase), 10% on training and installation of Dental, Medical (including MedClaims) & Allied Professional Patient Management & billing software.

Min Thong Lee

c/- AP Insurance Brokers
Queen St, Melbourne
Ph: 9602 1869
Fax: 9602 1876
5%—life insurance, loans, home & contents, motor, commercial.

Mike McKeon Music

Dingley Village
Ph: 9551 7363
5%—on our Octet or 10% on a 14 pce. Big Band and two vocalists. Discount off Musicians' Award rates. For dinner dances, weddings, balls & special events.

Newtech R&D

Kilsyth
Ph/fax: 9723 7535
10%—on electronics consumer product design & Japanese translation.

Sit Right Chairs Pty Ltd

Coburg
Ph: 9354 2612
Fax: 9354 2795
10%—off range of office and ergonomic chairs.

Stewart Smith

Australian Commercial Credit
Licenced Insurance Brokers
Ph: 9816 3264
Fax: 9816 3270
25%—off normal costs. Leasing Equipment & cars.
Home/commercial mortgage loans.

Tortoise Head Guest House

French Island
Ph: 5980 1234
Fax: 5980 1222
10%—on accommodation, fully catered, adjacent bay.

Quarter Deck B&B

San Remo
Ph: 5678 5485
Mob: 018 550 235
E-mail: rosco@melbpc.org.au
20%—on B&B stays of two nights or more. Great views and close to many tourist attractions.

James Small, Solicitor

North Balwyn
Ph: 9830 0233
Fax: 9830 0222
20%—on standard conveyancing and will preparation fees (exc. govt. charges and disbursements).

Ultimate Business Service Opportunities

Strathmore
Ph: 9483 4417
Fax: 9374 2919
25%—on travel cards that allow 50% off world-wide hotels. 12 month g'tee.

Yodgee's of Prahran Leather and Travel Goods

Prahran
Ph: 9510 2413
Fax: 9510 2916
10%—computer briefcases and travel bags, R.M.Williams boots and clothing, Dr Martens footwear.

Special interest group meetings

Access (Database)

Ray Watson
raywatson_assist@onaustralia.com.au
 9576 8520 BH & AH
 2nd Monday
 6.30 – 8.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Assembly & Other Languages

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
 9523 5400 AH
 1st Thursday
 7.00 – 10.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Ballarat

Ken Smith
kensmith@giant.bnc.com.au
 5332 7851 BH & AH
 1st Thursday
 7.30 – 9.45 pm
 (except school holidays)
 Ballarat & Clarendon College
 614 Mair St, Ballarat
 VicRoads map 254 L12

Bendigo

Russ Collins
 5439 3708 BH & AH
Joe Henry
joehenry@melbpc.org.au
 2nd Wednesday
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 Girton Grammar School
 105 Mackenzie St, Bendigo
 (Vine Street entrance, then follow the signs)
 VicRoads map 282 K14

Clarion

Chris Livingstone
chrisliv@ozemail.com.au
 9431 1897 BH & AH
 4th Wednesday
 7.00 – 10.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Communications

Philip Lew
phil@melbpc.org.au
 9822 2998 BH
 (brief calls please)
 2nd Wednesday
 7.00 – 9.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Daytime

Don Buchanan
donbucha@melbpc.org.au
 9509 7119 BH & AH
Graeme Minto
gm@alphalink.com.au
 (03) 9459 3986 BH & AH
 2nd Thursday
 10.00 am – 12 noon
 Melb PC SIG Room

East

Keith Beresford
eastsig@melbpc.org.au
 9733 5044 AH
 9736 2515 BH
Margaret Brown
 9874 5778
 2nd Tuesday
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 Multinet Theatrette
 200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
 Melway map 62 H2

East Workshop

Aldo Pitre
eastsig@melbpc.org.au
Ken Gubbins
 9898 5478 Ph/Fax
 Sunday following the East SIG meeting,
 10.30 am – 2.30 pm
 Multinet Theatrette
 200 Rooks Rd, Vermont
 Melway map 62 H2

Graphics

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
yahya@melbpc.org.au
 9562 1023 AH
 (brief calls please)
 3rd Monday
 7.30 – 10.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Hardware

Felix Hofmann
felix@melbpc.org.au
Thom Lyons
tomlyons@melbpc.org.au
 9525 9793 BH & AH
 3rd Wednesday
 7.00 – 11.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

LUBE

Thom Lyons
tomlyons@melbpc.org.au
 9525 9793 BH & AH
 3rd Thursday
 7.00 – 10.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

MACE

(Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts)

Graham Hurford
hurdy@alphalink.com.au
 9562 1023 AH
Roger Davies
rogerd@alphalink.com.au
 2nd Sunday
 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Music

Yahya Abdal-Aziz
yahya@melbpc.org.au
 9562 1023 AH
 (brief calls please)
Eric Best
ebest@melbpc.org.au
 9376 1984 AH
 2nd Thursday
 7.30 – 9.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

New Users, East

Doug Brooke
dab@melbpc.org.au
 9822 3458 BH & AH
 2nd Tuesday
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 (except January)
 St Mark's Anglican Church,
 Cnr Canterbury & Burke
 Rds, Camberwell
 Melway map 45 J10

OS/2

John Angelico
talldad@kelp.com.au
 9544 8792 BH & AH
 4th Tuesday
 6.30 – 10.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Programming

Ross Hall
 5428 6470 AH
 9699 4000 BH
Andrew Callaway
acal@ozemail.com.au
 9619 4067 BH
 2nd Tuesday,
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Quicken

Viv Martin
martinv@melbpc.org.au
 9583 5372 BH & AH
 4th Thursday
 7.00 – 9.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Retired & Interested Persons

Ken Thomas
 9884 5309 AH
Noel Peters
ripsig@melbpc.org.au
 4th (not last) Friday
 10.00 am – 12 noon
 Lutheran Church,
 25 Cypress Ave,
 Glen Waverley
 Melway map 62 A9

Video Editing (Linear)

Albert Vanzet
vanzet@melbpc.org.au
 9439 1768 BH & AH
 4th Monday
 7.00 – 9.30 pm
 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn
 Melway map 46 E8

Home pages

Many SIGs have their own home page. You can find links to these via www.melbpc.org.au/sig/index.htm

Video Editing (Non-linear)

Lawrie Weston
westoni@diamondc.net.au
 9742 3738
 1st Tuesday
 (including Cup day)
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 Melb PC SIG room

Warragul

Gordon Ross
 5623 5434 AH
 1st Friday
 7.30 – 10.00 pm
 Warragul Education Centre
 Smith St, Warragul
 VicRoads map 337 Q8

Western Suburbs

Robert Mead
meadr@melbpc.org.au
 9312 5427 AH
 4th Tuesday
 7.00 – 9.00 pm
 Sunshine Squash Centre,
 cnr Kent and Stewart Sts,
 Sunshine
 Melway map 41 B2

Windows

Lynn Pollock
lynn@melbpc.org.au
 9598 3186 AH
 9533 5002 BH
 1st Monday
 7.00 – 9.30 pm
 Melb PC SIG Room

Updates and corrections

Please send to
Joe Henry
 SIG Co-ordinator:
joehenry@melbpc.org.au
 or via the office.

SIG meeting reports

Proposed Windows NT SIG

This group will now be meeting at the Melb PC SIG room, on the fourth Monday of the month, starting at 7.30 pm.

SIG meetings in December/January

Please look on our Web site or contact the SIG leaders, to see if the SIG is meeting over the holidays.

Many updates are in the calendar below, if you are unsure, please contact the SIG.

Digital Imaging

The Melbourne Camera Club has recently formed a Digital Imaging Group (DIG) meeting on the first

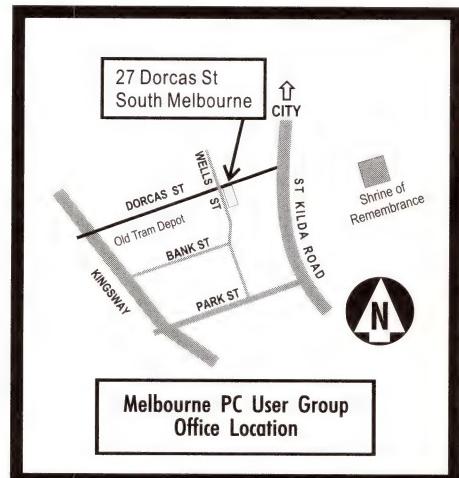
Monday of each month (except January). They are a small group, strong in imaging via traditional photographic methods and keen on expanding into digital imaging.

The DIG would like to extend an invitation to interested members of the Melbourne PC User Group to join with them.

If you are interested, please phone Ian Bock, who is also a member of Melb PC, on 9807 3701 or leave a message at the Melbourne Camera Club's e-mail address,

president@melbournephoto.org.au.

Information on the Melbourne Camera Club may be found on its web site at <http://www.melbournephoto.org.au>



Many SIGs meet at Melb PC's premises, at 27 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne.

SIG and other meeting dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	I Video Editing (Non-linear) ‡	2 Monthly meeting	3 Assembly & Other Languages ‡ Ballarat	4 Warragul	5	6 MACE ‡
7 Windows ‡	8 Programming ‡ East New Users, East	9 Communications ‡ Bendigo	10 Daytime ‡ Music ‡ Combined Video Editing	11	12	13 East Workshop
14 Access (Database) ‡	15 Committee ‡	16 Hardware ‡	17 LUBE ‡	18	19	20
21 Graphics ‡	22 OS/2 ‡ Western Suburbs	23 Clarion ‡	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes: Public holidays are shaded These (‡) meet at Melb PC		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Notes: Public holidays are shaded These (‡) meet at Melb PC				I Warragul	2	3 MACE ‡
4	5 Video Editing (Non-linear) ‡	6 No monthly meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12 East	13 Bendigo	14 Music ‡	15	16	17 East Workshop
18 Graphics ‡	19 Committee ‡	20 Hardware ‡	21 LUBE ‡	22 Retired & Interested Persons	23	24
25	26 OS/2 ‡ Western Suburbs	27 Clarion ‡	28 Quicken ‡	29	30	31

Daytime

» Don Buchanan

October

Alan Fowler followed up his article in the September *PC Update*, with a morning helping us first hand with his experienced knowledge of modems, including an explanation of the various reasons a modem rarely reaches its rated speed. Even from the early days, with much lower speeds, the causes of such problems were often outside the modem's control.

Alan also discussed

- How to check the reported high and low modem speeds
- Just what V.90 is all about
- How modems work, initialisation strings, the AT command set, carefully reading the manual (including specific modem default values)
- Specific conditions under which the caller may be charged for calls, even though the caller has simply heard a busy signal from the other end.

East

» Frank Walsh

Change of venue

The recent gas crisis caused problems other than cold showers and cold houses. Our normal meeting place became unavailable temporarily, because the management and staff needed the room to set up an information centre. Thanks to the generosity of the Vermont Secondary College, we were able to accommodate the 80 or so members who either saw our notices on the Bulletin Board or Web site, or who had followed the advice of the volunteers re-directing them to the temporary location.

Pre-meeting workshop

Stewart Bedford had the computer up and running and was available to settle a number of questions for those members who are new to computers. We can all remember those frustrating times when we struggled to come to grips with things like changing directories in DOS or trying to understand what "format C:" meant. We invite those who have just taken the plunge to bring their problems along to Stewart in the half hour before the formal meeting starting time.

Questions and answers—George Skarbek

This section of our meeting attracts a wide variety of questions ranging from tax software, the millennium bug, base system memory, to uploading image files.

Tips and tricks—Stewart Bedford

Stewart continues to extract details of shortcuts and quick fixes. This time he concentrated on keyboard shortcuts.

Singapore Airlines and Matsushita Avionics

Martin Chatfield introduced us to some of the fascinating details of the electronic equipment being installed by his company on Singapore Airlines fleet of Boeing 777s and Airbus. In addition to the usual passenger announcements the system enables pilot control of local and overseas communication with the ground, internal lighting and heating. Passenger seats have the equipment to access video on demand, CD stereo, video games and world news (which is updated hourly). The capacity is mind boggling. Interestingly enough the technology to support this complicated function is all supported by DOS and Win 3.11

PC audio facilities: CD and WAV effects

While what you hear and see seems to be what you get on tapes that have been produced commercially, this of course is not necessarily so! On some recordings, what you hear is certainly not what those being quoted said in the way they meant to say it. Dave Botherway treated us to a wide array of examples of how digital audio recordings could be enhanced, improved (or otherwise doctored) using a variety of shareware programs including Cupid Player, Groovoids, and Cooleedit, all of which are readily available. Sound waves were displayed in a variety of graphic forms and could be manipulated, balanced or substituted. (Does anyone remember how we used to have to change the needle after playing our favourite 78s?). Small sound packages can be grafted to Web pages and are easily accessed by mouse. It is also now possible to record messages and send them as voice e-mail.

Coming up—Dr Dave Warren—who developed the "Black Box" Flight Recorder which is now accepted world wide as an essential part of Aircraft disaster investigation—will outline the history of this equipment.

MACE

» Graham Hurford

Last month's meeting of the MACE (Atari) SIG was a thing of joy. Seeing a keyboard hooked up to a tone generator hooked up to an Atari (no midi cards needed...the midi ports are built-in) was a special moment for a lot of us.

The meetings may not be running as smoothly as we think they were at Monash, but I urge attendees to think of the meeting venue as if it were a pair of slippers. We had to throw out our comfy Monash slippers and now we are breaking in our Melb PC Group Hush Puppies.

As is our tradition, the December meeting always ends with a barbie. We are not quite sure where the barbie will be, but as South Melbourne is also known as Park City, finding a decent shady tree won't be a problem. So come along and join the fun...become one of the Atari family.

OS/2

» John Angelico

Our October meeting saw about 20 people present to hear the news and to help "Build a web site in a night".

The meeting opened with a general news session covering developments in 32-bit computing, including:

- Release of IBM Aurora (Warp Server 5) beta 2
- Public release of WorkSpace On Demand as "GA" or General Availability
- Rumours of FixPack 9, although no one could claim to find it as yet
- Release of Lotus Notes 5.0, and a Notes 4.6 client for OS/2 (not new news, but worth remembering for Notes users).

Other news included:

- Release of a new Netware 5.0 system, signalling Novell's return to serious competition against Warp Server and MS NT
- Release of IBM's competitor to MS-BackOffice
- Rumors of a serious problem with MS-Access which causes actual data loss.

Building a web site in a night

The SIG room looked different/better with the new tables installed and we set up two machines to handle the work of building Web pages.

Thom Lyons had us off to an excellent start with the work he had already done on the home page. From there, John used the white board to diagram a rough layout, some style parameters and content suggestions.

Terry started using Netscape Composer to set up a simple template for all pages while we discussed various factors such as host machine requirements, links to and from the Melb PC home page and similar details. We also gathered suggestions for links to other sites locally and around the OS/2 world.

By 9 pm we had a reasonable layout worked out in eight or nine pages, so it was down to some fast typing, table building, graphic collecting and browser compatibility testing. At this point we called it a night, declared the job half-done, and agreed to continue working on our separate machines with discussion and file exchange by e-mail if required.

Next meetings

November: Planning for 1999.

January 26th, 1999 (Yes, I know—it's Australia Day).

Stay tuned via the BBS or by e-mail talldad@melbpc.org.au for more details.

Quicken

» *Bob Mayston*

The October meeting proved popular with about 40 members attending. After introducing Glen Roberts, the speaker for the evening, Viv Martin conducted the usual question and answer segment.

As might be expected this was dominated by discussion of Quicken version 7. All who have installed it complained about its speed, even when running it on a Pentium 90. Other complaints included an annoying and frustrating pause each time the screen refreshes after an entry is made, and installation conflicts—it seems v.7 is more sensitive to machine environment. One member complained to Intuit, and was told that Intuit acknowledged the problem, but did not offer suggestions for improvements.

Others were concerned about the investment module, which was acknowledged by all as an improvement over the previous versions, but even here there are lurking problems. Do not try the hide function, as it can cause problems with the register. Again Intuit have been advised and acknowledge the problem, but claim it will be corrected in a later release. Other members have problems with the Dividend Imputation tracking function. Another member asked how to handle entries for split payment share issues such as the recent Telstra float.

Overall members thought there was little by way of improvements to the accounting function. Since the next version has already been released in the US, the consensus was that unless you want or need the latest improvements in investment functionality and you have a very fast machine, it may be worth sticking with your current version, at least for now.

Quickbooks v.5 vs MYOB v.8

We were pleased to welcome Glen Roberts from Tailored Solutions to present the main topic for the evening, a comparison of the latest versions of

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Quickbooks (v.5) and MYOB (v.8). Both products do an excellent job of tracking your accounts in small business, but there are subtle differences between the two.

Glen told us that between them, these two programs have more than 90 per cent of the Australian Market. MYOB currently supports both multi-user and Mac platforms, whereas the current version of Quickbooks does not.

Glen gave us a very professional and impartial demonstration, including hands-on examples, of the look, feel and use of the main operating screens in both programs.

Both programs now feature graphical opening screens and perform similar tasks. But, while both handle sales tax, MYOB was easier to use when sales tax needed to be applied at different rates. On the other hand, Quickbooks should do a rather better job of handling the GST if and when it becomes an issue.

Both programs have good invoicing modules and invoices can be tailored to suit individual wishes. The screen view of invoices in Quickbooks looks more like the printed version, and is more user friendly than that presented by MYOB.

Both programs produce an extensive array of reports, but here Quickbooks provides more flexibility in the way the reports can be filtered to present data, whereas MYOB is fairly rigid. You can export Quickbooks data to a spreadsheet, for additional manipulation and if necessary import it back into a Quickbooks data format.

Quickbooks' different coloured screen modules makes it easy to differentiate between

- Issuing credit notes
- Issuing purchase orders
- Receiving payment
- Paying bills.

On the other hand MYOB treats credits as negative invoices and also tends to use standard templates for different functions, which can confuse new users.

Another thing you may need to consider is the wide use of Solution 6 accounting software by professional accountants. Solution 6 can accept data from Quickbooks but not MYOB. If you normally send your finished accounts to a professional accountant for checking and submitting to the ATO, this may make your decision for

you. Another useful feature in Quickbooks is the "Find" command which will interrogate your register to find a predefined string of data.

We wish to record our sincere appreciation to Glen for this most excellent presentation which members showed on the night, with their enthusiastic applause.

If you are interested in accounting/bookkeeping/investment programs then this is the SIG for you.

Come along, with your problems. You will find a warm friendly welcome awaiting you on the fourth Thursday of each month, except December, so our November meeting will be our last for 1998.

Retired and Interested Persons

» Bill Cooney

We had the usual good attendance with 120 members present. The early morning problem-solving clinic was filled with laughter as a member recounted an experience changing the monitor's display under Win 98. It seems that under the new interface, "safe mode" is not entered as in Win 95. It was time to re-learn the procedure, but all ended well after about two hours work. Many other queries and experiences were aired and shared at this meeting, which begins before the regular proceedings get under way.

During the main meeting's question time, George Skarbek stressed the usefulness of loading the entire Win 95/98 directory (sorry, folder) from the installation CD-ROM to a partition other than "C:\", because it bypasses the CD-ROM and runs faster, thus enabling an easier setup. This is especially useful with Win 95, which produces a default rescue disk without CD-ROM drivers.

Our main speaker was Melb PC User Group Vice-President, Morris Tobias, who gave us an insight into new things coming our way, including:

- DVD on the computer
- Very small, easily transportable hard disks
- Partition Magic 4.0 and associated programs.

At our November meeting, our guest speaker will be Richard Johns, who will talk to us about how the Internet

works and other "need to know" topics. Richard is also an Excel, Word and PowerPoint expert and is willing to answer queries on these applications as well.

At our January 1999 meeting one of our SIG members will lead us into the world of Graphics, and how to manage them.

Holiday get together

Make a date and come and have some Christmas cheer with the RIP SIG on Friday, 4 December at Smorgy's Family Restaurant, 415 Warrigal Rd, Burwood, starting at 12 noon.

Finally, on behalf of the Rippers, I will take this opportunity to wish *PC Update* readers and Melb PC staff a very happy and restful holiday season. We look forward to greeting you all in 1999.

Video Editing (Linear)

» Albert Vanzet

It will not be long before our Video Editing (Linear) SIG will start its third year.

We started with a Video Editing SIG, When we found that while our aims were the same, the techniques used in the two approaches were too different for us to continue as one group, we soon split into two separate SIGs

- Linear
- Non-Linear Video Editing.

But that is now history.

Although the enthusiasm for our hobbies has not changed, there have been some major changes in the video editing programs during our SIG's short life.

We went through the stages of Video-Director Home and Suite 2.5. We used Aver VideoEditor and went from Pinnacle's VideoDirector Studio 200 to our current favourite, Studio 400. The latter program combines some of the Non-Linear Editing techniques with that of the Linear Video Editing program. Although Studio 400 captures video on the hard disk, it does so at low resolution. To "Make Tape", the computer still directs the video camera to the selected clips on the master tape from where it is recorded on the VCR. The images on the hard disk facilitate this process using an ingenious program, called "SmartSeek". Another feature included with Studio 400 is

"SmartSound", a selection of background music that is automatically adjusted to the length of the movie. We are certain that this new Linear Video Editing program will keep us busy at our meetings for a while.

Many of our founding members are still loyal our SIG. Although these familiar faces form the basis of our group, we have also expanded our numbers so that it is not unusual to find our room filled with over 50 members, each one eager to learn more about our common interests.

One of the things we have been searching for is a way to spread the work and responsibilities for our meetings. At a short, amicable meeting of some of our most loyal members we devised a solution.

From our October meeting onwards we will have a firm program for our meetings. The evening will move through six segments.

After the usual "Introduction and News" segment we will have a new item, "What's new?". This will be followed by another new segment, which we may call "The art of video". The next segment will be "Question and Answers" time. We expect that this will take us to the "Coffee Break". This will be followed by the main

subject of the evening, "Studio 400". This program or another current linear video-editing program will be dealt with in sections. Our final segment for the evening will be "Member's Videos", where we will enjoy and learn from our fellow members' successes and failures.

The task of running each segment will be left in the hands of the current volunteers assisted by any member that comes forward to take up that challenge.

Those who have attended our previous meetings and other SIGs know that deviations from these planned segments may occur, but that is a benefit of the freedom of SIGs.

We believe that having these planned segments will further enhance the informative atmosphere of our meetings and at the same time keep the evenings amicable and entertaining.

We further believe that our Video Editing (Linear) will continue to draw interested hobbyists to our meetings, not just in 1999, but (may I say) even into the new millennium.

Sell night

At that December combined meeting, we will also give our members another

Combined meeting: Linear and Non-Linear Video Editing SIGs

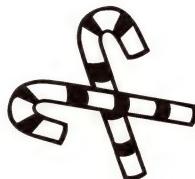
This is your opportunity to meet even more of your fellow members, at our end-of-the-year combined meeting of the Linear and Non-Linear Video Editing SIGs. This will be held 10 December starting at 7.00 pm, at the Balwyn venue, 45 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn.

We invite members from both SIGs, and anyone else who wishes to come along, to bring a video to the meeting. We would like to see short videos (5 - 6 minutes running time) that have been edited using any system, computer or otherwise. We are not looking for masterpieces; we just want to show what video editing is about. If you wish to announce that you will show your video, please ring the conveners of either Video Editing SIG; otherwise just bring them along.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support over the past 10 years.

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opportunity to put their surplus video—or video editing equipment up for sale at friendly prices.

We all have those pieces of equipment that we no longer need or use, maybe because we updated our equipment or we adopted another system. Well, going by our experience of our September "Sell Night" there is always somebody who can use one or another item.

Windows

» Bob Mayston

This month it's good news and it's bad news. The bad news first—there will be no meeting in January 1999 so we will have to wait until February to give a Windows welcome to the new year.

The good news is there will be a meeting in December, the planned topic will be the latest Internet software for Windows 95/98. There have been several new updates of regular Internet programs and others of possible interest, so it is opportune to review and see what is currently available. Come along for what is always a friendly, informative and instructive meeting, not without some humour and the odd surprise.

For all of our Windows SIG attendees and their friends we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hope you all find your most wanted software or game tucked in your Christmas stocking.

The first meeting for the new year will be Monday February 1. By then we may expect a vigorous question and answer session as our members try out the new software over their Christmas break. Remember if your machine becomes so obstinate you despair, then arrange with Lynn to bring it to the meeting for a hands-on workshop to help solve your problem.

The usual tips and tricks sheets will be available at each meeting and in February we will plan the year's activity, so if you have a topic you would like included this is your opportunity to put it on the agenda.

Have a safe festive season. Do have an exciting computing time over the holidays and come along and share your experiences at our first meeting next February 1.

EXPERIENCES

Wayne
Eames

Preparing for opening night

Some time ago I browsed through an old *PC Update* magazine and came across the Special Interest Group page. Reading through the page I noticed a listing for a Linear Video Editing group. Over the years I have accumulated a whole library of video tapes that recorded family events and holidays. Despite many attempts I have only had limited success editing these tapes into a presentable, entertaining video, the sort I would like to show my family and friends.

I decided to go to one of the SIG meetings. Once there I found myself a part of a friendly group of people from all over Melbourne (even beyond!). These members share a common interest and are clearly eager to learn more about their video editing hobby.

The convener, Albert Vanzet, ably runs the group. The format for the meetings (which, you will read in his report, is expanding in the future) includes a questions and answers session—in which members help solve other members' video editing problems—

presentations, and demonstrations of editing software and hardware. The evening usually ends with a viewing and discussion of videos edited by individual members of the group.

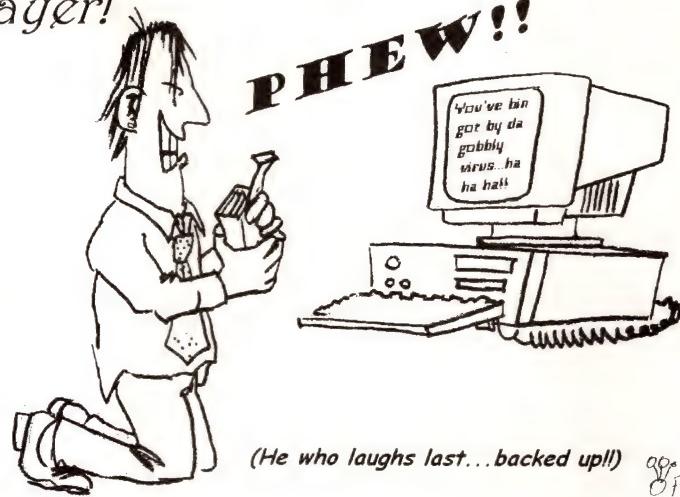
The information I have gained from these meetings has already helped me improve my video editing. The SIG is not only informative, but is entertaining as well.

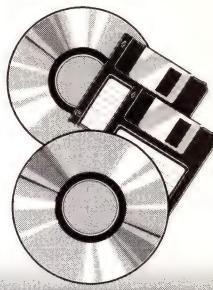
I look forward to the fourth Monday of each month and hope to contribute to the meetings as well as gain more knowledge about linear video editing.

One day I will surprise my family and friends with a video, an impressive, Spielberg-like production. It will be great to know I can keep my audience awake and interested in my videos, ones I have edited myself. I will even add suitable background music and narration.

All I have to do now get the drinks and the biscuits ready for opening night. Or maybe I won't. Maybe I'll keep the drinks and biscuits for myself.

Backups...a quicker option than Prayer!





Shareware/Freeware library update

Program authors sometimes assume that everyone who uses their software instinctively knows how to install it and use it. We do not assume such knowledge, and we go to some lengths to provide shareware programs in a ready-to-run (uncompressed) form, where possible. In all cases we provide instructions on how to install and use the programs we supply from the Shareware Library. These instructions are contained in a file called NOTEMNN.TXT (where nnnn is the disk number). We trust that you find these files are useful, particularly if you are new to computing and the shareware method of distribution.

Any program described in these pages as "Public Domain" or "Freeware" does not require registration. However, most of the programs described are neither Public Domain nor Freeware, but are distributed by the Shareware method. This means that if you continue to use the program after a reasonable trial period (usually one month), you should register the program. We show the registration fee when it is known, but the absence of a fee does not mean that the programs are free. Shareware authors are entitled to be paid for their work.

Updates

Melb 0000

Melb PC Shareware Catalogue v4.5

This disk contains the details of all of the current disks in the Shareware Library of the Melbourne PC User Group. Each disk is described in the same format that you see here. This format enables us to provide more details of each disk's contents than a single line entry. It also enables you to use a program such as LIST (provided on this disk) to search for a disk or a program, by name, by number, by category, or by content. A new catalogue disk will be released quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and December. The new catalogue will contain details of all current disks up to the issue of *PC Update* for those months. A number of useful utilities have been included with the disk. The catalog is supplied in a compressed form due to the size of the catalogue files and it will have to be installed on a hard disk before use. All information is accessed by menus.

Melb 2615

Solway's Internet Search v1.7

Solway's Internet Search is a small, fast program that enables you to search up to eleven search engines simultaneously. It displays the results of up to four search engines on a single screen (provided that your web browser can handle frames). You can select up to four search engines to search at a time, and you can choose to display the search results in grid format, or in rows, or columns, or each search engine in a separate browser window. If you select to search more than four search engines, but each one will be displayed in its own browser window (Netscape). The grid, rows and columns options only work when you select no more than four search engines. This version has improved browser detection, two new search engines (OpenText and Reference.com) and it works better with the Opera web browser. You can now turn all engines on or off, or invert the current selections with the press of a button. Solway's Internet Search requires Windows 3.1x or later, an Internet connection and a Web Browser which supports frames. Freeware.

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Melb 8671

CD-Quick Cache for Win95 v3.10

If you've ever wished you could speed up your CD-ROM drive, then CD-Quick Cache is the program for you. CD-Quick will dramatically increase the performance of your CD-ROM drive. By storing frequently read sectors in either fast memory or on your hard disk drive, disc reads are almost instantaneous. CD-Quick uses advanced caching techniques and dynamic read ahead buffering to ensure top performance. CD-Quick Cache includes CDTEST to measure your CD-ROM drive's performance and the Windows QUICKMON program to show cache statistics in real time. This version adds support for Win98 with improved performance over the previous versions of the program. It also corrects some bugs surrounding utility programs that would cause it to operate incorrectly. The CD-Test priority has been increased to give more accurate results when other programs are running. Due to user feedback the maximum cache size for disk has been increased to 256 MB and the maximum cache size for RAM has been increased to 32 MB. The minimum requirements for CD-Quick Cache are an 80386 processor running Win95/98 and a CD-ROM drive. Regn US\$29. A DOS version of CD-Quick Cache is available on disk Melb 9292.

Melb 8796 Melb 9050

CuteFTP v2.0 (16-bit) CuteFTP v2.6 (32-bit)

CuteFTP is one of very few programs that enable novice users to utilise the capabilities of FTP without having to know all the details of the protocol itself. The strongest point of CuteFTP is its ability to gather almost every available bit of information about the files and directory structure of a remote system and present it to the user in an easy-to-use File Manager style browsing screen. CuteFTP will also keep data transfers to a minimum by means of storing all the data it can in a temporary file. This release contains a new toolbar, the ability to paste a URL directly into the location toolbar and various bug fixes and improvements over the previous version. The 32-bit version also includes some fixes specific to Win98. The 16-bit version of CuteFTP requires Windows 3.1 or later, a WINSOCK (version 1.1 or later) dialler program and 2 MB of RAM. The 32-bit version of CuteFTP requires either Win95/98/NT4, some form of Internet connection (modem, ISDN, cable or network) and 4 MB of RAM. Regn US\$30.

Melb 8804 Melb 9280

TextPad v3.25 (32-bit) TextPad v3.25 (16-bit)

TextPad has been designed to provide the power and functionality to satisfy the most demanding text editing requirements. There is no limit on the file size that may be edited. This 32-bit edition can edit files up to the limits of virtual memory. This is explained in more detail in the on-line help documentation. The program can have multiple personalities for compatibility with various applications, customisable keystroke shortcuts, and a clip library for inserting frequently used text (such as HTML tags). You can have up to 64 user macros and 32 user tools. Control characters can be typed and their decimal code can be displayed. This version includes a number of enhancements including a Quick Open command, an increase in the number of file extension filters, new tool parameter macros for specifying run time parameters, the ability to print odd and even pages (for double sided printouts) and changes to the

online help. The 32-bit version of TextPad requires an 80486SX or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM (12 MB for NT), 2.5 MB of disk space and Windows 3.1x (with Win32s 1.30.172 extensions), or Win95/NT3.51. The 16-bit version requires an 80386SX or faster processor, 4 MB of RAM, 1.5 MB of disk space and Windows 3.1 in 386 enhanced mode. Regn US\$27 and registered users will be licensed to use both the 16-bit and 32-bit editions. Spelling checker dictionaries (UK English and US English) for use with TextPad are available on disk Melb 9292.

Melb 8941

WinRescue 95 v8.02

WinRescue 95 is designed to rescue Win95's registry files if they become corrupted, instead of having to reinstall Win95. You can restore the Registry and other configuration files in less than two minutes. If you cannot get into Win95, there is also a DOS version of WinRescue 95 that will do the repairing from outside of Win95. As an added precaution you can use WinRescue 95 periodically to make backup copies of the Registry. This version corrects errors which may cause the program to become unstable, and adds some new features. These features include five different ways to restore the registry, and it allows you to streamline the registry entries. WinRescue 95 requires Win95 or DOS. It will not work with Win98. Regn AUS\$35 but existing (registered) users can obtain a free upgrade by contacting the author. A Win98 version of WinRescue is available on disk Melb 9162.

Melb 9047 Slim Show v3.1 (Windows)

Use Slim Show to create impressive, interactive multimedia presentations using simple and intuitive construction steps. Simply drag and drop the components, such as text, sound files, graphics and buttons into your presentation. Dialogs, and the options for each item, are easily understood and offer a great deal of flexibility to create a most professional-looking product. Forty built-in transition styles for graphics, with erasing, resizing and transparent painting are included to spice up your presentation. Text or graphical buttons can be created for interactive choices for the viewer. You can create a compressed, self-running, easily distributable .EXE file, with very little overhead (just 55 KB) for the player and you can cut the self-extracting file into multiple files for fitting the transporting media. Self-extracting executable projects are ideal for distributions in Emails, diskettes or on Web sites. The visual authoring environment enables you to create programs just by clicking, dragging, placing, and assigning properties. No scripting or programming is needed. You use the same authoring environment to create programs, subprograms and animation files. Slim Show includes an optional, adjustable text-to-speech module that adds 500 KB to the size of the final product. The system supports .WAV, .MPG, .MID, .BMP, .JPG, .AVI and .TXT files. TrueType text fonts (.TTF) are transported to target system and then removed after the show automatically. Slim Show offers a wide array of easily used options that can contribute to a very professional presentation. This version has adjustable transition smoothness for graphics, loop counter support, and a Grid in Position Window for the easy alignment of objects. Slim Show (and projects made with it) requires an 80386 or faster processor, Win3.1x/95/98/NT3.5 or later, SVGA graphics (640 by 480 by 256 colours or better), a sound card and a mouse. Regn US\$50.

Melb 9162

WinRescue 98 v3.02

WinRescue 98 can backup, compact and restore Win98's registry files if they become corrupted, instead of having to reinstall Win98. The Compact feature corrects registry errors and slims down the registry to keep Win98 running smoothly and to protect the configuration. You can restore the Registry and eleven configuration files very quickly. If you cannot get into Win98, you can use the special bootup disk which you

can create with WinRescue 98 or you can run WinRescue 98 from a diskette. As an added precaution you can use WinRescue 98 periodically to make backup copies of the Registry. The Backup Manager easily renames and deletes backups and previous registries. This update corrects many bugs that have arisen since the release of Win98. It also adds abilities such as streamlining and fixing Registry settings, and adds to backup lists files that are created by Win98 upon installation. A special boot disk can be created also to help with recovery processes. WinRescue 98 requires Win98. It will not work with Win95. Regn AUS\$35. A Win95 version of this program is available on disk Melb 8941.

Melb 9169

Bullet Proof FTP v1.08

Bullet Proof FTP is a program for downloading files from the Internet. Both FTP and Web downloads are supported. If your connection is lost or the program stops receiving data from the remote site, the program will automatically attempt to reconnect and resume downloading of the file. You can select files for downloading using the original directory listing style, or by copying URLs to the clipboard from your Web browser. Built-in support is included for authentication of the integrity and originality of Web downloads. This version enables you to save the site list to a file, rather than into the Windows registry and various bug fixes. It has the added ability to import sitelists from CuteFTP (32-bit). Extensive on-line help is included to help you with any problems you may stumble upon. Bullet Proof FTP requires Win95 (or later) and some form of Internet connection. Regn US\$30.

New disks

Melb 9281 Melb 9282

NetTerm v4.2.9 (16-bit) NetTerm v4.2.9 (32-bit)

NetTerm is a Windows-based, general purpose communications program and terminal emulator. It was designed to work with bulletin boards, local area networks and the Internet and it can handle any combination of these. For example, you can have a NetTerm session connected to a host on the local area network, a site connected via the Internet, and a site connected by a direct modem connect, all at the same time. All of the combinations are controlled through the phone book. NetTerm can be used also as a dialer program for SLIP/PPP and it includes a built-in scripting language. For Internet hosts, the telnet protocol is enabled with VT100 emulation and full ANSI graphics. An FTP server is included. Transparent printing and local host editing is supported for UNIX. NetTerm supports many other terminal emulations also. Although NetTerm contains many options, a new user can get up and running very quickly once the connection type is determined. NetTerm provides several sample phone book entries to help new users to get online quickly. Once you have connected successfully to the host, you can review the many options contained within NetTerm to customise the phone book entry for your new hosts. NetTerm has many other features. It currently supports the ASCII, Xmodem, Kermit, Zmodem file and FTP file transfer types, and it supports 'crash recovery' with Zmodem. 132 column support is provided by horizontal scrolling (VGA mode), or by changing the window width to process 132 columns (VGA enhanced mode). NetTerm is designed to be the preferred client of choice for Netscape but it will also work with most other WWW browsers, such as Internet Explorer. NetTerm has several different methods to provide firewall support for those sites that require a firewall. Sample scripts are provided for dialup, ethernet and firewall use. The 16-bit version requires Windows 3.1x. The 32-bit version requires Win95 or later. Regn US\$20. A printed manual is US\$10 extra.

**Shareware is just
\$5 for the first disk,
\$4 for the next and
\$3 for all others, per order,
post included. See the
order form on page 32.**

CoffeeCup HTML Editor Express v2.0

CoffeeCup HTML Editor Express is a fully-fledged HTML editor with many useful tools and functions. It is a slimmer version of the full-blown CoffeeCup HTML Editor++ (available on disks Melb 9120-9122). The program makes good use of various Wizards to perform many functions, such as font, colour and META Tags (to get noticed by search engines). It is pre-loaded with seven Web Page templates, and the ability to create your own templates for future use. Some of the more useful features of CoffeeCup HTML Editor Express is the one-button FTP upload utility, the ability to insert preformatted text in paragraphs or straight text, and the extensive online help (with full Email support for registered users). The program requires Win95 or later and an Internet browser. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9284**Cyber-Info Hotmail Notify v1.6**

Cyber-Info Hotmail Notify is a basic program that fulfills a basic purpose. Hotmail Notify tells you if you need to login to Hotmail or not by notifying you when you have mail. Hotmail Notify allows multiple accounts to be configured, and when any new messages are found, notification comes in the form of a pop-up message and an optional sound. If you wish to read any of your new messages, there are clickable links that will open the message in your Web browser. Even if you don't have a permanent Internet connection, a dial-up connection can be specified. Support is provided for accessing the Hotmail servers via an ISP's proxy servers. It requires Win95 or later, a Hotmail mail account, and some form of connection to an Internet Service Provider. Freeware.

Melb 9285**Download Wizard Plus v2.50**

Download Wizard is a handy utility for storing files, bookmarks and shortcuts for easy file management. The interface that is used resembles Windows Explorer and reduces file clutter and confusion. Finding what you are looking for becomes much simpler. Every file that you download from the Internet or transfer from other locations, is stored in a hierarchical fashion in user-defined categories. Information such as where the file came from, and on what date it was received, is also included. Extracting files from a zip file is made simple with the in-built unzipping feature. DownloadWizard enables you to create an interchange file so that you can share a file or a collection of bookmarks with colleagues. It requires Win95 or later and 8 MB of RAM. Regn US\$28.

Melb 9286**WS_FTP LE for Win3.1x v4.6****Melb 9287****WS_FTP LE for Win95 v4.6**

WS_FTP LE is a Windows FTP client. A slimmer version of its Professional counterpart, WS_FTP LE provides a windowed interface for transferring files and directory structures between your local computer and FTP servers. You can select multiple files and/or directories and transfer them in one operation. Just like the Professional version, some features of WS_FTP LE include support for different firewall types, but it also includes changes to the internal structure of the program to increase stability across a range of systems. A complete online help file is provided. The program requires Win3.1x/9x/NT 4.0 (or later), and an Internet connection.

Melb 9288**4Screens Desktop Utility v1.27**

4Screens provides you with an easy mechanism to be able to work with many more of your programs. The main goal of 4Screens is to enable you to easily work with multiple applications without cluttering your screen. It helps you to be more productive by giving you more screen space for your applications. This means that you have the ability to organise your windows applications as though you were working with multiple monitors connected to your computer. Using this program allows you to spread these applications across the four given screens, so you now have four screens instead of one. 4Screens requires Win95 or later. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9289-9290 Animated Screen v2.20 (Win95/NT) (2-disk set)

You can use Animated Screen to create Windows screen savers, stand-alone presentations and animated .GIF files that you can give to your friends and customers. You can also use Animated Screen to start your own screen saver business, selling custom shareware screen savers, in unlimited quantities, royalty-free, with your company listed as the author. You can combine an unlimited number of words, sounds (in .WAV, .RMI or .MIDI formats,) and pictures (in .BMP, .GIF or .JPG formats). You determine the font, text colour and background colour as well as special effects (such as shadows). You can use prerecorded WAV or MIDI sound files, or you can use your PC and microphone to record your own soundtracks. Multiple images can be placed on each screen, and you determine how the images come and go, using both fixed and random placement, as well as special effects (such as bouncing images off the screen's borders). Some of the programs key

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Preston	Wed	24 Feb	6-9pm
Preston	Sat	27 Feb	9am-4pm

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Day or evening courses in Windows NT Server 4.0 are also offered by Northern Institute.

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features include drag-and-drop image insertion and composition, complete palette control, layer image merging and export support, palette editing support, infinite looping control and a "GIF Optimisation Wizard" for creating the smallest GIF files. You can distribute your Animated Screen presentations as Windows screen saver files, as stand-alone .EXE files, or as self-extracting files that will automatically install your presentations into your users' Windows System folders and set them up as standard screen savers. Animated Screen requires Win95/NT4, 10 MB of disk space and a graphics card with 256 colours (65536 colours recommended). A sound card and a microphone are recommended also. Regn from US\$29.

Melb 9291

NoteTab Light v4.5 (Win95/NT)

NoteTab Light is a versatile text editor and a popular Notepad replacement. You can open as many documents as system resources will allow, each with its own tab in the tab bar. Each document can be up to 2 GB in size. One of the most significant features of this text editor is the Editor Clipbook. This is a flexible tool for handling text clips. These can be anything from a single character to a large "boilerplate" chunk of text. Clips are stored in libraries and retrieved by selecting the corresponding header from the list or by typing the first matching characters and pressing a function key. The Clipbook is particularly popular for inserting HTML tags. NoteTab also offers a useful Outline document format that lets you organise information in a structured way. You can use the editor to search and replace text in all open documents or disk files, and criteria can include multiple lines. Other features include support for templates, stripping of HTML tags, converting documents to web pages, sorting/joining/splitting/ indenting lines and calculating mathematical expressions. All standard text editor features such as reading and writing files in DOS/UNIX/Mac format, spelling checking and automatic indentation, are also integrated. NoteTab Light is very customisable. You have a selection of more than 80 commands for the toolbar and the main shortcut menu. The editor's behavior can be fine tuned to suit your needs. NoteTab Light can even substitute Notepad simply by selecting a menu command. Some features are only available for a 30-day trial period. NoteTab Light requires Win95/98/NT4 or higher, 2.5 MB of disk space and 8 MB of RAM (16 MB for NT). NoteTab Light is

Freeware but you can get the full set of features by purchasing NoteTab Standard for US\$10 (or NoteTab Pro for US\$20, if you require more power and speed).

Melb 9292

Textpad Spelling Checker Dictionaries

These spelling checker dictionaries are for use with TextPad text editing program. The UK English and US English dictionaries are provided on the disk. They require either the 32-bit version of TextPad (available on disk Melb 8804) or the 16-bit version (on disk Melb 9280).

Melb 9293 Axialis AX-CDplayer v2.0

If you're not content with the plain-looking CD player that comes with Windows, then the AX CD player is for you. This program looks just like the front panel of a car stereo and functions in the same way. Apart from playing your audio CDs, the AX-CDPlayer has a number of other features built-in. Play-back options such as shuffle, repeat and intro scan can be used, or a personalised playlist can be set up. You can enter details of a CD such as track details, artist and title, or these details can be created automatically by querying the CDBB (CD database) from within the program, although the shareware version doesn't allow the information to be saved. AX-CDPlayer requires Win95 or later, a CD-ROM Drive and a sound card that has all of the drivers installed correctly. Regn US\$14.

Melb 9294

CD Copy v4.515

CD Copy is a program that allows you to save tracks from an audio CD onto your hard drive. It is easy to use and also has some impressive features. CD Copy allows you to save a track in a number of formats, including AU, RAW, VOF, MP3 and RealAudio formats. For MP3 compression the internal codec can be used, or an external one if you prefer. Encoding into the RealAudio format is only available to registered users. Finding all of the details about the CD artist and song details is made easy with the CDBB (CD Database) look-up feature; and once you have these details you can even look up the lyrics of the different songs with the click of a button. You can also nominate the start and end points of the track, thus only recording the portion that you require. CD Copy also features its own built-in track adjustment ability. Track adjustment is useful for older

CD-ROM drives that may incorrectly estimate the start and end sectors of a track. CD Copy requires Win95 or later, a CD-ROM drive and a sound card with all of the drivers installed correctly. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9295-9296 Parametric Equalizer Pro v2.5 (2-disk set)

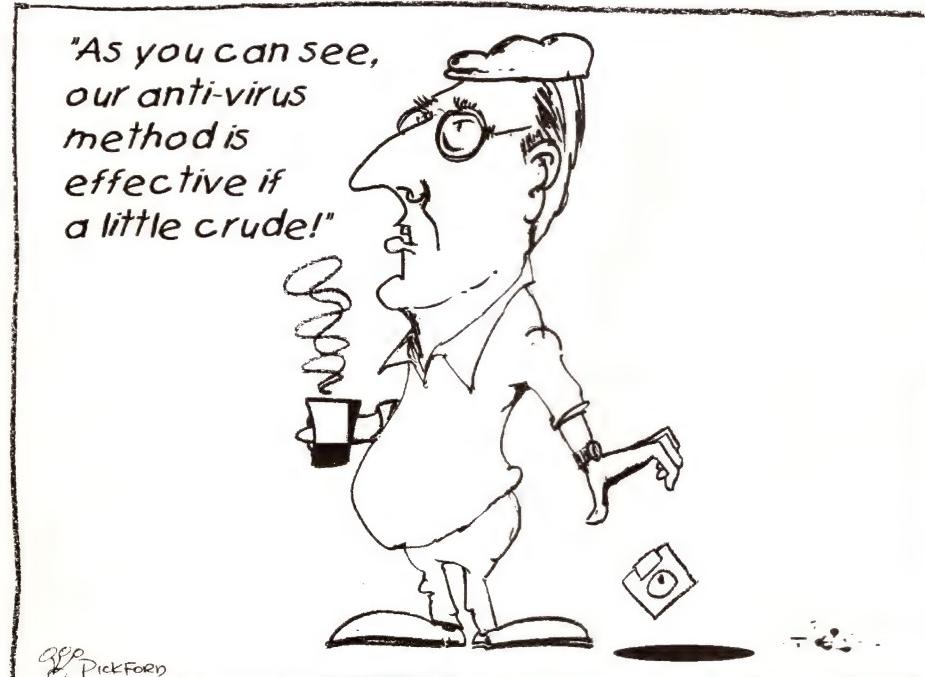
Parametric Equalizer Pro is a real-time parametric equalizer for Win95 that lets you shape the timbre of a sound by boosting or attenuating its frequency components. Parametric Equalizer Pro allows you to open WAV files and change the properties of the sound, as long as they are a 16-bit, 44.1 kHz sound file. Once you open a WAV file, there are a number of presets that can be applied, such as Bass Boost, No Hiss, and the Heavy Noise filter. It also features a set of knobs that you can turn to get an even better and higher quality sound, not to mention finer control. The program requires Win95 or later, 16 MB of RAM and a sound card which has all of the drivers installed correctly. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9297 Add/Remove 4Good v2.0

Add/Remove 4Good acts as a replacement for the Control Panel Add/Remove programs feature found in Win95 and later. Add/Remove 4Good will remove all traces of programs from your system and keep it clean of unwanted files. It has a slick and easy to use user interface with fast access from the system tray. Misbehaved shareware can be installed without the fear of having it stuck forever in the Add/Remove list. Add/Remove 4Good first tries to uninstall the application and only later (if necessary) forces the application out of the Add/Remove list. The program provides a history log that lists all of the applications that were uninstalled. Add/Remove 4Good requires Win95 or later. Regn US\$13 for single use, or US\$50 for an unlimited site license.

Melb 9298 Alarm Clock v2.00 (Win95)

This application is very useful when you need to be reminded to do something at a particular time. The program will produce sound (as a Wave or a MIDI file) when the preset alarm time reaches the current time. The program is supplied with six wave files for your use. However, you can also select your own wave or MIDI files. Alarm Clock has two modes of operation: a Wake Up mode and a Late mode. The program passes on Wake Up mode when the application is running and the Alarm Time and Alarm Date equal the Current Time and Current Date. Late mode is used when you turn on your computer after an Alarm Time and Date have already occurred. You can select separate sounds for each of these modes and you can choose also whether the program will produce a single sound or a repetitive sound. Alarm Clock requires Win95 or later. Freeware.



The order form for disks from the Melb PC Shareware/Freeware library is on page 32 of each issue of PC Update.

Shareware is just \$5 for the first disk, \$4 for the next and \$3 for all others, per order,

Melb 9299

DLTYPES v1.6.0

DLTypes retrieves all registered file types from the Win9x registry and presents them along with the number of files, file sizes and invalid entries for each extension and file type. This information is presented in an easily accessed window for selection either by file extension, file types or unregistered files. After the selection has been made, modifying the default icon and associated actions as well as adding or removing file extensions and correcting invalid entries can be done easily. A very fast search function is included to find files based on their extension or file type. Print functions are available for all of the file types and their associations. The program also has a built-in automatic backup/restore of the registry entries when deleting extensions or changing values, so any mistakes can be corrected easily. DLTypes requires Win95 or later. It is recommended that your monitor can handle the 800x600 resolution adequately, as the program runs best in this mode. Regn US\$17.

Melb 9300 File Investigator v1.40

Have you ever found yourself staring blankly at files that have an unknown extension, wondering how to access them? File Investigator is a small utility that examines file contents and provides much useful information for the numerous formats it recognises. Program operation is very simple. You can drop a file onto its desktop shortcut or select a new Investigate item on the Windows context menu to generate a Properties dialog with Details, Background, Preview and Setup tabs. If you want to check out a batch of similar files, a modified version of the Windows File Finder will list them, summarise their contents and allow a closer look via the context menu. File Investigator can save a lot of head-scratching, especially when you've picked up files intended for other platforms. File Investigator requires Win9x/NT4.0 or later. Regn US\$20.

Melb 9301 Real Function Keys v1.1

Real Function Keys is a simple but useful tool for making the most of the 12 function keys sitting at the top of your keyboard. Real Function Keys (RFK) enables you to launch up to four programs (or files associated with programs) from each function key, alone or in combination with a Shift, Ctrl or Alt key. You can configure RFK to load during your Windows startup. RFK will override any assignments made to the function keys by other programs. If this doesn't present a problem, RFK could save you a lot of time in handling multiple applications. The program requires Win95 or later. Regn US\$15.

Melb 9302 Sticky Note v5.0 (32-bit)

StickyNote is a simple sticky note program for Win95/98/NT. It can be used to create coloured notes for storage on your desktop. Each note has a caption bar, which is drawn slightly darker than the text window. You can click and drag it to move a sticky around. It also has a context menu which appears when you right-click it; using this menu you can change the colour of the sticky, the font and the font colour. You can hide your sticky notes temporarily, and display them later using the Show command from the system tray context menu. Hidden stickies are still maintained by the program. Your settings are saved when you exit StickyNote. Notes can be alarmed so that a sound plays at a given time. Alarmed windows will pop up to the top of the windows stack, and will be coloured differently to draw your attention. Notes can be given expiration dates and times also. StickyNote requires Win95 or later. Freeware.

Melb 9303 WinZip for Win95 v7.0

WinZip brings the convenience of Windows to the use of ZIP files and other compression formats. WinZip includes a PKZIP-compatible built-in zip and unzip (so PKZIP is not needed for basic archive operations), and built-in

support for popular Internet file formats such as TAR, gzip, UUencode, XXencode, BinHex, MIME and Unix compress. ARJ, LZH, and ARC files are supported via external programs. It interfaces to most virus scanners. WinZip includes a powerful yet intuitive point-and-click, drag-and-drop interface for viewing, running, extracting, adding, deleting and testing ZIP, LZH and ARC files, including self extracting archives. WinZip includes long filename support, tight integration with the Win95 shell, drag and drop to/from the Explorer, and zip/unzip, without leaving the Explorer. This version includes support for Microsoft's CAB (cabinet) file format, including self-extracting CAB files, a configurable toolbar that can hold up to 21 buttons, improved configuration dialog boxes and support for inserting comments into ZIP files. It also includes an interface to the free Internet Browser Support Add-On, which you can use to download and open archives from the Internet with one click via Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator. Winzip requires Win95/NT 3.51 or later to run. No other programs are needed for basic ZIP operations. Regn US\$29.

Melb 9304

CPIC is a quick and easy-to-use multimedia manager/viewer utility for Win95 or later. It contains an intuitive user interface and many features that make this program very useful. Picture indices, fully configurable slideshows and multiple sized thumbnail images can be created. Picture catalogs can be printed and used as a quick index, or they can be stored into any of the

supported graphics formats. CPIC provides support for a variety of file types including AVI, BMP, FLI, GIF, JPEG, MIDI, MOV, PCX, WAV and many others. It requires Win95 or later, a VGA (or better) graphics card and monitor and a mouse. Regn US\$40.

Melb 9305-9306

Videotrope v1.0 (2-disk set)

Videotrope is a simple video editing utility that you can use to view, edit and create video clips. Existing movies can be edited, complete clips can be broken into individual frames and image files can be combined, to create a customised movie. Videotrope also features a very intuitive interface. Many file types, such as AVI and FLIC video files, are supported. WAV sound files and BMP, PCX and TGA image files can be used as well. Segments from within a movie can be selected with the sliding bars or by entering the start and end frame numbers. Included tools enable you to edit the soundtrack or just the images of a movie, leaving the current sounds in place. Any changes that you make to a clip are saved in a script, which means that you can go back and alter these changes again later. You can also preview an edited movie with the rendering feature before saving it to disk. Video files may be reversed, resized and overlaid. Some sound effects available as well. Videotrope requires Win95 or later, a VGA or better graphics card and monitor, 16 MB of RAM, a Video capture card (for recording from a camera or other video device), and a sound card with all the drivers correctly installed. Regn US\$89.



Life isn't all serious

Some of our members have been determined to get in early and set the tone for the coming holiday/silly/festive season.

...From Alex McMurray in *melbpc.general...*

Recently I had a problem with various software packages, where nothing would be sent to the screen.

If I wanted to do some word processing, my copy of Word would just sit there staring at me, and nothing I did would make it to the document.

I had thought of asking some of our resident experts via *melbpc.general*, but even my copy of Netscape was ignoring me. What to do?

My mouse worked, the screen was lit, the software itself was in working order. Luckily a computer literate friend was visiting, and saw the problem right away.

It appears that one of my children had moved my chair and when I sat down in it, my arms could no longer reach the keyboard, we moved the chair closer to the computer and *viola*, I am back at work again.

Dedicated to our Dial Help volunteers.

» *Alex McMurray*

...to which Jasper Daams replied...

Reminds me of a problem years ago, I was called into fix an IBM golf-ball typewriter, the typed work was full of extra spaces.

I couldn't fault the machine and blamed it on the typist. Told her to lift her hand a bit away from the spacebar. She got very aggro about this suggestion, she had been a typist all her life, etc, but it worked.

Next day she called again, same problem. I still couldn't find any reason, but did some inquiring. Found out that the day the problem started she had been given a new desk.

Thus I told her go and make herself a

cup of coffee. While she was out of the office I cranked her chair an inch higher, told her I fixed the machine. A week later she told me I had done a wonderful job fixing her typewriter.

» *Jas*

...not to be outdone, Henry Mydlarz added...

As a past IBM golfball techie, I recall one of my fellow techies telling me how he once went to a typewriter where the operator was complaining of "bad touch". The techie inserted a screwdriver between the outside key buttons—onto nothing in particular—and turned it, telling the operator to keep typing while he "adjusted" the touch, and to tell him when it felt better. Eventually the operator was satisfied and the techie went riding off into the sunset—another successful repair job.

» *Henry Mydlarz*

...Jasper finished with another story to rival any of the old chestnuts that circulate on the Internet...

Operator's revenge on the boss

I was flown out from Perth to Broome to fix an NCR32 (accounting machine, before the PC days) for the Commonwealth bank.

When I walked in I noticed a few little levers in the wrong positions and by resetting them the machine was fixed. Took 30 seconds. Turned out the last operator had left under less than friendly circumstances and obviously sabotaged the machine in a very obvious and simple way. Any operator should have been able to fix it.

The bank manager was very embarrassed and persuaded me to invent a serious fault as the cost to the bank was a return flight to Broome—so many hours travelling on overtime and me enjoying myself in Broome for a whole working day at their expense.

I obliged, you have to be kind sometimes to poor old bank managers.

» *Jas*

Using AltaVista search engine

The following summary of simple search commands is based on a handout by <http://www.altavista.yellowpages.com.au>

Simple search commands

Use as many words as you want to focus the search.

Example: **small business franchise australia** is more likely to produce better results than a search for only **small business**.

Use + in front of a word to require that word to appear.

Example: + **small** + **business** will find both the words **small** and **business** in the one page.

Use - to exclude a word.

Example: + **business** - **franchise** will find pages that include **business** but exclude all pages with the word **franchise**.

Use quotation marks " " to search for an exact phrase.

Example: "to be or not to be".

Without quotation marks you'll get pages that use any of those words.

Use only lower case unless you want your search to be case sensitive.

Example: **ACT** will only find pages with **ACT**, a search for **act** will find pages with **ACT**, **act**, **Act**, **AcT**.

Use * to broaden your search to find variations and plurals of words.

Example: **librar*** will find **library**, **librarian**, **librarianship**, **libraries**.

AltaVista searches for more than just text. You can search for pages that meet your specific criteria, for example:

title:text finds pages that contain the specified word or phrase in the title of the page

Example: **title:"elvis presley"** will find pages with "Elvis Presley" in the title.

Image:filename finds pages with images having a specific filename.

Example: **image:elvis** will find pages with images called **elvis**.

You can find other AltaVista features to improve your searching at:

<http://www.altavista.yellowpages.com.au> or the link from

<http://www.melbpc.org.au/search/>



Members' free ads

Advertisements from members, for Swap, Wanted, For Sale, Free, etc, are run free of charge.

All ads must be uploaded as a file NB: not a message) to the BBS (NB: not the Internet) in ASCII format to area PCUP, or supplied as an ASCII file on a virus-free non-returnable MS-DOS diskette (any size) and delivered to the Group's Office.

We do not have the time to type your ads, so this service is only available for electronic advertisements.

Infected disks are thrown out, without attempting to disinfect or recover data!

Members' ads will be included in the first available issue of *PC Update*.

Advertisements must include at least one phone number—if you only want replies via the BBS or Internet, only advertise there.

FREE

Oki Microline ribbons.
Netcomm 2400 external modem.
Peter 9479 2785
Facit B1350 Impact line printer. Plus 8 new ribbons.
Tom 9587 1088 (BH)

WANTED

Info-Select for Windows 3.x. Please advise asking price to:
Bill 9238 1211 (BH)
or e-mail brule@melbpc.org.au

Experienced software trouble-shooter to make house call Windsor. Will pay \$15 per hour. Minimum of 3 hours work.
John 9510 3530

FOR SALE

Maestro 14.4 kbps external modem. \$50
Peter 9479 2785
Powerquest Drive Image 2.0 in unopened original packaging. \$60
Powerquest Partition Magic in unopened original packaging. \$30
First Aid 95 and 97. Both complete with manuals—the pair \$10.
Jim 9531 1465
Tecktronics CROs
Tecktronics 475. \$400
Tecktronics 475 with digital meter DM43. \$500
Tecktronics 2235, 100 MHz. \$500 with probes, or offer
Geoff 9889 2351 (AH)
or 0417 509 849

486DX33 PC. Has 16 MB RAM, 120 MB HDD, 3.5-inch and 5.25-inch FDDs, colour 14-inch monitor, mouse and keyboard. \$250 ONO

Commodore Colt PC. Has 640 KB RAM with dual 5.25-inch FDDs. Comes with step-down transformer, Tandy RGB colour monitor, keyboard, and Okidata 180 printer. \$80 ONO

MS Windows NT 3.1 kit. Comprises CD-ROM, FDs and manual. \$25 ONO

Brother M-1824L dot-matrix printer. \$30

Panasonic KX-P1082d Dot-matrix printer. \$10

MS Office for Windows 95 Standard on FDs v7, with users manual. \$100

John 9510 3530

Christmas Specials

Solve your gift problems this Christmas with **McAfee Office** from Network Associates, the most comprehensive, integrated product for automating your desktop utility and Internet needs. Normally \$199.95, members can pick it up at the December monthly meeting for **\$179**. Alternatively, call PropellerHead on (03) 9813 2500, and quote your membership number. Additional deals on other McAfee products will also be available. Offer ends 31 December 1998.

McAfee Office combines award-winning technology from the best utilities in the industry, including *VirusScan*, *Nuts & Bolts 98*, *First Aid 98*, *UnInstaller*, *Guard Dog*, *Hurricane 98*, *Oil Change*, and *2000 ToolBox*.

NEW!

Year 2000 Data

Network and standalone software and database to assist testing and tracking of Year 2000 compliance. Call for details and an evaluation copy.

Network Consulting ♦ Sales ♦ Service ♦ Training



(03) 9882 8044
info@netsys.com.au

Courses: December '98 — February '99

Info Box

Where are courses held?

At the group's premises, usually in the Training Room. Some courses are held in the SIG room so check when you arrive.

The address is 27 Dorcas Street (Cnr of Wells Street), South Melbourne VIC 3205

How do I get there?

There is usually plenty of parking available nearby in the evenings or at weekends or tram to corner of St Kilda Rd and Dorcas Street and walk one block down Dorcas Street.

Important!

You will obtain greater benefit from a course if you have the skills recommended by trainers as prerequisites for their courses. Otherwise, you may not be able to keep up with the class practical sessions.

How do I book a course?

Please use the order form on page 31 or (for credit card orders only) phone or fax the office (numbers on page 3).

Early enrolment is advised as places are limited. Enrolments/bookings without payment will **not** be accepted.

I have something to say!

You can contact Training with suggestions for courses or other training-related matters by sending e-mail to Lynn Pollock at lynn@melbpc.org.au

Application courses

Quicken for small business \$180

Viv Martin

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Fri 5, 12, 19, 26 Feb.
Bookkeeping, record keeping, producing reports for accountants using Quicken or Quicken for Business.

Prerequisites: Basic Windows experience assumed. Ideally, ownership of the latest Australianised version of Quicken for Windows.

Intermediate Powerpoint \$45

Caroline Houston

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 17 Dec.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 14 Jan.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 10 Feb.

This course gives a more in-depth perspective to creating presentations using enhanced graphics and special transformations from slide to slide. Students will create presentations that can be given as on-screen shows or printed for use on an overhead projector. This course is a must in preparation for your next meeting/conference delivery.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with Win 95 including mouse and keyboard skills. This course also assumes familiarity with Powerpoint in creating basic slides and basic graphics or attendance at the Introduction course.

MS Word v6/7/97 enhancing documents \$66

Jill Renison

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 9 Feb.
On completion of this course students will be able to create and modify the appearance of a table, enter data into a table, create columns and frames, import graphics, create captions and embed drawings, and use Word Art effectively.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the Windows environment including mouse and keyboard skills. Students should be able to cut, copy and paste text and should have a basic knowledge of Word for Windows.

Introduction to Access 8/97 \$162

Peter Fallon

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Thu 4, 11, 18 Feb.
This is a hands-on course designed to introduce you to database concepts. You will learn how to create an access database, and build simple queries, forms and report. Most importantly, you will be shown how to use the online documentation, and where to go for information when you need it.

Prerequisites: Prior knowledge of Databases or Access is not required. A working knowledge of Win 95 is assumed.

Communication courses

Introduction to the Melb PC BBS \$45

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–12 noon, Sat 20 Feb.
A basic examination of the Melb PC BBS covering initial logon, menu system, message areas, file areas and transfers, plus tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: None.

See also: File management, archiving and compression techniques.

Internet courses

Note: If you are starting with minimal knowledge, we suggest that the Internet courses are best attended in the sequence shown. More advanced students should attend at their skill level.

1. Introduction to the Internet \$45

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–noon, Sat 12 Dec.
9.00 am–noon, Sun 17 Jan.
9.00 am–noon, Sun 21 Feb.

An overview of the Melb PC Internet service. Live explanations of all the major programs that make up the Internet. Full detailed discussion of the hardware and software items involved, including modems. General questions concerning Internet connections.

Prerequisites: None.

See also: File management, archiving and compression techniques.

2. Using the Internet with Windows 95/98

\$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 6 Dec.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 16 Jan.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 7 Feb.

This is the basic course for Windows 95 users. It suits people about to install Win 95 Internet software or novice users of the Internet who want a full explanation of the basic setup and techniques involved. Hands-on individual installation of 32-bit Internet software. Explanation, discussion and live student Internet connections to demonstrate and practice all the major components.

Prerequisites: Win 95 experience.

3. Advanced Internet Part 1: Effectively using Web browsers

\$60

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–5.00, pm Sat 12 Dec.
1.00 pm–5.00, pm Sun 17 Jan.
1.00 pm–5.00, pm Sat 20 Feb.

Complete examination and discussion of all the features in the latest versions of both Netscape and MS Internet Explorer. Configuring, bookmark and favourite management, saving images and data, offline viewing of saved information, effective use of search engines and techniques, and tips and tricks. Students have live Internet connections to practice their searching techniques.

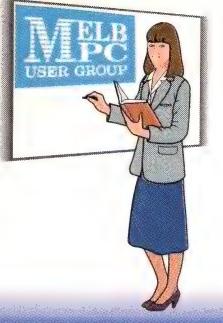
Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

Specialist trainers required

We require specialist Trainers in the following courses:

- Windows NT 4.0
- The basics of programming
- Visual Basic programming.

If you are interested and suitably experienced, then please contact Lynn Pollock in the first instance by e-mail at lynn@melbpc.org.au outlining your experience in the subject.



4. Advanced Internet Part 2: Internet Workshop \$90

Lynn Pollock
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sun 13 Dec.
Complete discussion and live student Internet connections examining all the features that make up the Internet today, with the exception of Web browsers. Students will gain experience with the following: Advanced e-mail, FTP, Archie, Gopher, Finger, Telnet, IRC Network, Internet Phone, newsgroups and list servers, also connection problems and tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Students should have attended the basic Internet course or have a good understanding of Internet principles. This is an advanced course.

Courses by request

These courses are available by request subject to minimum student numbers. Please register your interest with the office.

- QuickBooks
- Office 97 overview
- Communications workshop
- Housekeeping a computer
- Memory management
- Virus protection and recovery
- Overview of Windows 95
- Writing batch files
- Using the Internet with Windows 3.x
- Computer Basics.

File management, archiving and compression techniques \$45

Lynn Pollock

1.00 pm–4.00 pm, Sun 21 Feb.
Explanation of file management including virus location, files you can delete, and file errors. Archiving, covering some of the more common programs used and basic backup strategies. Additionally some techniques will be discussed for files you download from the BBS or Internet. This course stands on its own and also complements Introduction to the Melb PC BBS, Communications Workshop and Introduction to the Internet.

Prerequisites: Must be familiar with Windows.

Starting Windows 95

\$119

Mary Levens

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 9, 16 Dec.
Introduces the computer novice to the concepts and skills required for effective use of the Win 95 environment. Covers basic Windows jargon and terminology, how to accomplish everyday tasks and how to change the way Windows looks and works. Students will receive a comprehensive exercise manual.

Prerequisites: None.

Advanced Windows 95/98

\$90

Lynn Pollock

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 5 Dec.
9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 6 Feb.
A full and detailed examination of Windows 95 for experienced users. Topics include adding hardware, registry control and editing, backup techniques, communications, networking with Win 95, conflict resolution, enhancing performance, system maintenance, and many tips and tricks.

Prerequisites: Must be familiar with Win 95.

Hardware upgrade and repairs \$90

Tom Coleman

10.00 am–5.00 pm, Sat 23 Jan.
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Wed 17, 24 Feb.
Students will be able to dismantle and re-assemble a computer, replace major components. Be aware of the basic "rules" and conventions of computer building. Know enough to get started on simple jobs.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the basic functions of each of a computer's parts.

Introduction to networks

\$90

Len Krois

9.00 am–4.00 pm, Sat 27 Feb.
This session will show you how to connect two or more computers so that you can share computer resources.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with Windows 3.1 or Windows 95.

Web Page Design \$155

Steven Goldate
6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 12, 19, Mon 25 Jan.

This course has replaced the Beginners' and Advanced HTML courses. Students will learn how to write web pages for the World Wide Web. This includes HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) basics, use of HTML editors, both text and WYSIWYG. Students will gradually be introduced into the inner workings of HTML, learning how to write simple Web pages, then progress to more complex features such as using tables, frames, embedding sound files, incorporating public domain JAVA applets, how to create online slide shows and more. The course will cover such issues as features of good Web-page design, FTP uploading issues and getting free stuff off the Net. Students will also learn about and will look at directory structures in HTML and file uploading with FTP.

Prerequisites: Preferably, students should be familiar with the Internet, using a Web Browser, have some basic word editing skills and be familiar with Windows.

Operating system and hardware courses

How to buy a computer Free

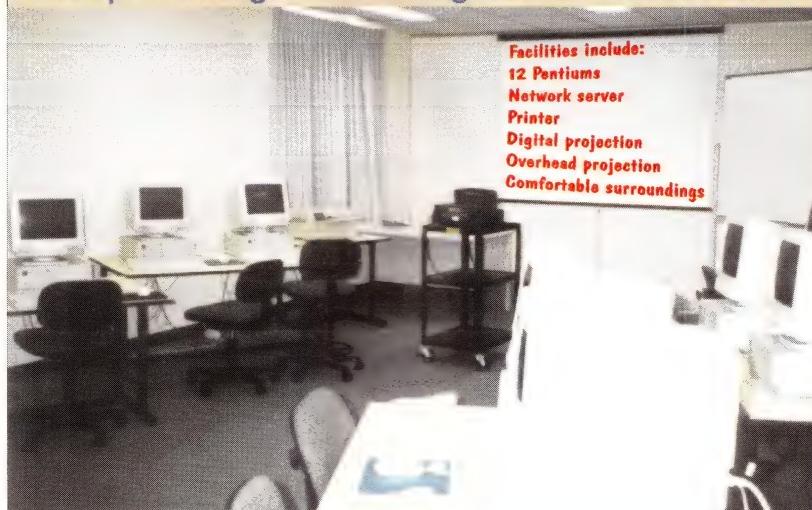
Tom Coleman

6.30 pm–9.30 pm, Tue 1 Dec.
What a computer does, what the jargon means, buying advice, tips and traps, no sales talk!

Prerequisites: None.

Need a Training Venue?

Conduct your classes in the Melbourne PC User Group Training Centre. Regular or casual rental.



Facilities include:

- 12 Pentiums
- Network server
- Printer
- Digital projection
- Overhead projection
- Comfortable surroundings



For further information contact:

Melbourne PC User Group
Administration Office
27 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne VIC 3205
Ph: (03) 9699 6222
Fax: (03) 9699 6499

The three-body problem

Back in the eighties, *Scientific American* ran regular articles, called "Computer Recreations", which dealt with the many interesting programs being devised on those (fairly) new-fangled computer things. They were largely responsible for my adoption of programming as a hobby in my retirement. At last, there was a willing slave to do vast numbers of repetitive calculations with the results displayed graphically to give a quick insight to complex situations. The three-body problem seemed an ideal application since my main interest was in graphics and, specifically, true 3D viewing to use all that wasted space in front of and behind the screen.

Mathematicians have long since reduced the orbits of two bodies on their own in space to fairly simple equations and their motions can be confidently predicted for evermore, that is, unless a third body happens along. The only way to deal with this is by taking small time steps and calculating the gravitational effect of each one on its fellows. Gravity is continuous and complete accuracy would require infinitely small time steps; a compromise has to be made. If results are plotted in two dimensions, horrible tangles result, as may be seen in the figures here.

True 3D stereo makes the developing orbits fascinating to watch and I first experienced this by using the red/green goggles trick. Each eye gets its own perspective and it works—each orbit is

perceived in 3D, but in white—you may have any other colour as long as it is white. Then the mirror trick was drawn to my attention. A vertical mirror, 300 to 400 mm wide, faces left, with its edge along the vertical centre-line of the screen. The right eye perspective is drawn on the right screen, the left eye view is flipped onto the left screen so that its reflection is on the right and is true for the object there. But wait, each body's orbit can be in a different colour and it is much easier to follow the developing orbits.

The first (1988) QuickBasic program on my XT ran like a dog (three-legged)—many cuppas while patterns emerged—but became acceptable with the advent of the 486. Revisiting it now to translate to C++ has given me a jolt as there were lots of superfluous calculations going on. Avoiding these and streamlining the logic gave a substantial boost in speed, which could be traded for a reduction of the time steps to give a bonus of much better accuracy.

This is of particular importance in close encounters where larger steps cause skidding out on the bend and a different departure direction and velocity from that in real life. A basic time step is adopted between actual plotting of positions on screen; at each plot, a check is made for the minimum separation between any two stars and, based on the inverse square of this, is decided how many sub-intervals will be used for calculations during the next time step. This can range from eight to 2000 or more so that, during close

encounters between any two stars, these can be more accurately calculated.

Playing with the program reveals a lot about the behaviour of stars. Binaries will form where two bodies' relative velocities are less than escape velocity and some have expressed the opinion that half of the stars are binaries in the hundred billion galaxies with a hundred billion stars each—or thereabouts. But they are markedly exclusive of interlopers; any body approaching from a large distance will "fall" in and sweep by at more than escape velocity, and its hyperbolic path will send it off in a different direction with much the same speed as it came.

If it passes close to one of the binaries, it will be whipped to a higher speed, if going in roughly the same direction, but will be slowed down if going in roughly the opposite direction. In the latter case, it may even be captured by one of the binaries; if it orbits closely enough, it may stay with it, but larger orbits will eventually encounter the other binary. Then the interloper may orbit with it, or be ejected at high speed, or anything. Be assured, any scenario you care to imagine has happened out there—billions of times. If the interloper is large, it may even race off in a new marriage with one of the binaries, sending the other off to try its luck elsewhere.

To get patterns to stay on the screen long enough to be interesting, it is necessary to contrive masses, positions and velocity components carefully. A binary pair is essential and others should be placed nearby with zero

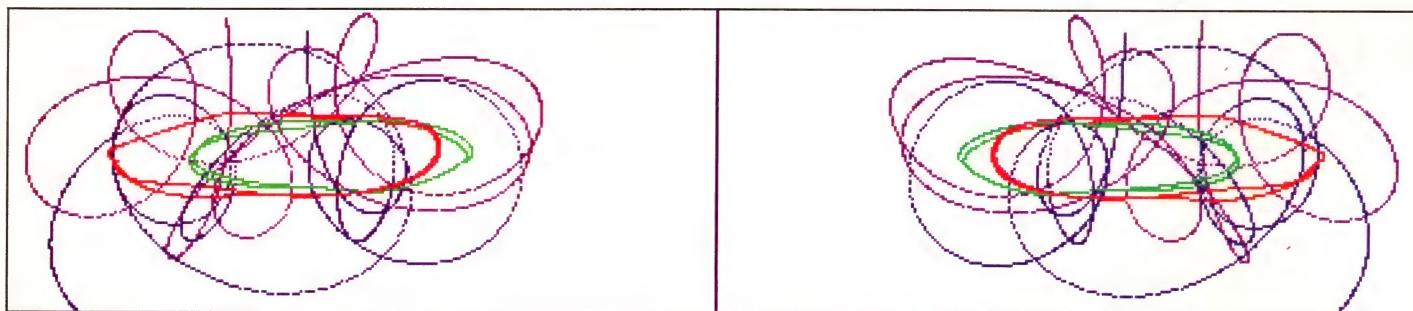


Figure 1

for those learning programming, or contemplating doing so, and looking for ideas to try out

Ken
Holmes



relative speed. Then trial and adjustment can give the sort of pattern desired.

The total linear momentum needs to be near zero in two dimensions (across screen and vertically) to avoid drifting off; even then, ejection of one at high speed will make the rest recoil in the opposite direction and you may lose the lot. It is an advantage with stereo viewing to have movement into or out of the screen to separate different episodes in the development.

The program will be on the BBS as STERSTAR.LZH and the figures here give some idea of the sequences it contains, nine with three stars and nine with four stars. The program can cope with more stars but speed is inversely proportional to the square of the number of stars and any increased interest does not compensate for the more sluggish performance.

The printed picture is a poor substitute for seeing the development of orbits on screen, with optional white or black background, optional goggle or mirror viewing and optional playing speeds. It is more interesting to watch patterns developing slowly and the accuracy is also better, so it is necessary to offer a wide range of speeds to satisfy machines from 386s to Pentium 400s.

Figure 1 shows a binary pair, green and red, of slightly different mass, started in circular orbits with smaller, magenta and blue, stars placed above the orbital plane. These drop in and select a partner each, establishing their own inclined orbital planes. However, as their parents move in their own orbits, the satellites' paths become a mixture of spiral and cycloidal elements. The satellites have enough mass to cause undulations in the orbits of the binaries and ruin the neat circular pattern. If the satellites had been dropped in from much further out, they would have interfered with each other, swapped parents and eventually been ejected.

Figure 2 is a bit messier but more typical of real-life patterns. The green and magenta binaries are in elliptical orbits about their common focus and moving steadily further beyond the screen. The advent of the pesky red and blue satellites causes upset in their happy lives. Blue moves in wide orbits around the pair without seriously disrupting them but red keeps returning for close encounters, with either binary, which seriously modify the shape and bodily movement of their orbits. Both satellites are hurled off the screen but keep returning. This is true chaos since

minor changes in the initial placements will give markedly different outcomes. Incidentally, there is an artificial form of chaos due to the calculation inaccuracies resulting from the adoption of finite time steps; if we vary the time step, to offer different program speeds, the pattern becomes different, particularly after each close encounter.

I realise that this type of program will not be a novelty for many of our older members, but offer them for younger members who may not have seen them, particularly for those learning programming, or contemplating doing so, and looking for ideas to try out.

On the BBS is a file, STEREOS.TXT, which lists the dozen or so of my programs available on the BBS, mostly using stereo and many of which having been the subject of articles in *PC Update*. Some include source code and details, for example, of how animations of ray tracings were done. I am always willing to share source code as I remember seeking others' code (I still do) to get ideas. I would feel well rewarded if just a few were enticed into the sort of basic programming that has given me so much pleasure. □

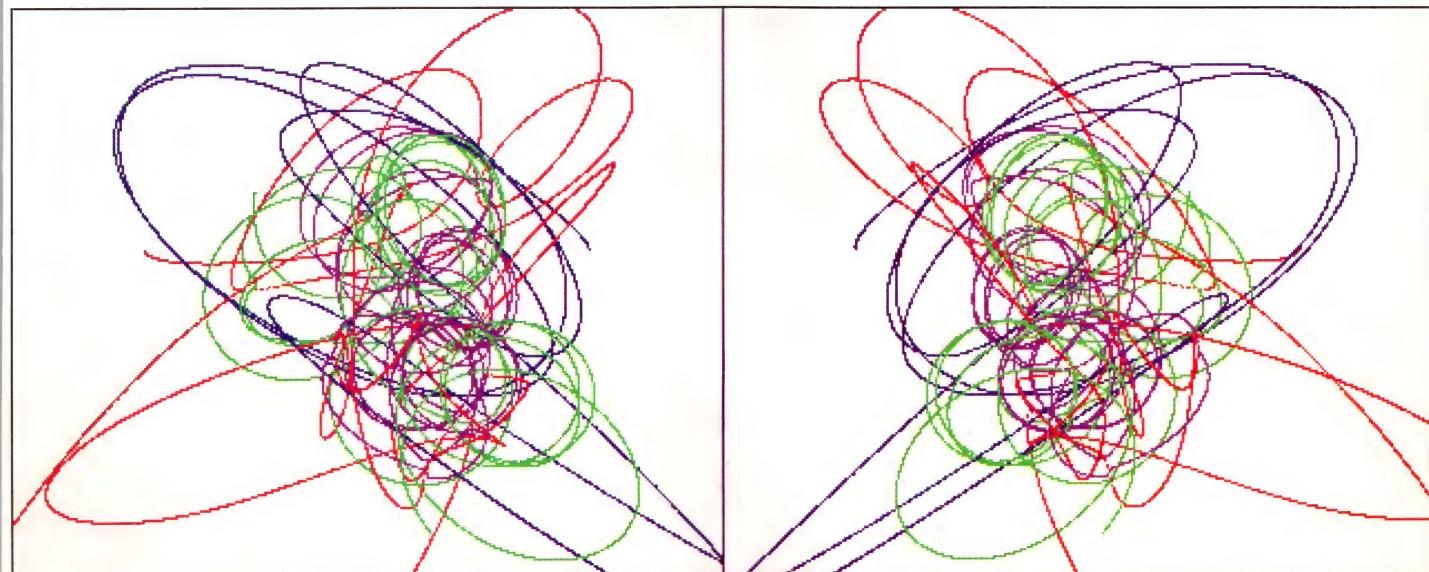


Figure 2



Symantec pc Telecommute

Info Box

pcTelecommute

Minimum system

- 486DX2-66 processor
 - Windows 95 / NT
 - 8 MB RAM (16 MB recommended)
 - 35 MB free hard disk space
 - CD-ROM drive
 - VGA video
 - Modem.

Availability / cost

Available from your local software reseller; otherwise contact Symantec Australia Ph:(02) 9850 1104

You can download a
30-day trial version
from www.symantec.com.au (18.2 MB file)

RRP: \$159 with reduced prices for multiple licenses.

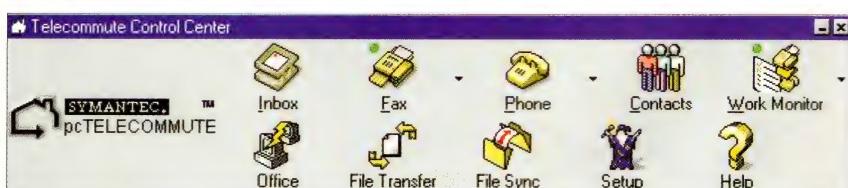


Figure 1. pcTelecommute's Control Center

As you'll have guessed from its name, pcTelecommute (pcT) is intended for those who split work time between office and home.

Not only does pcT facilitate the transfer of files back and forth between PCs, you can use it to manage your phone calls and faxes, log your work activity and even run applications on the office computer from home.

pcTelecommute works on both stand-alone and networked "office" computers and offers much of the basic functionality of pcAnywhere. The main difference between pcT and pcAnywhere is that pcT lacks high-end network support, including the ability to connect to multiple computers and servers running on different platforms. Bundled with pcT is a paperback copy of *The Telecommuter's Advisor* by June Langhoff. The package also includes a series of video clips from industry expert Gil Gordon which show you how to maximise your productivity while working from home.

a useful program

for those who split

work time between

multiple locations

Main features

You need to install pcT on both home and office PCs, but the process in each case is simple and hassle-free. On the office PC only the "host" features are installed, while a complete installation takes place on the home PC. A series of wizards walks you through each stage of the setup.

Once installed on the office PC, pcT hides itself away in the system tray awaiting a call. On the home PC, all functions are accessible from the Telecommute Control Center (TCC), a dockable toolbar. You connect to the office PC via any of several TCC buttons. With one minor exception (detailed below), it doesn't matter which button you choose to connect with as, once connected, you can switch back and forth between functions. For security reasons or to minimise your phone charges, you can work on a call-back basis, where the office PC dials back immediately it receives a call from the home PC.

Once you've established a connection, you can begin using the office computer just as if you were sitting in front of it. The office PC's desktop appears in a window on your home PC and you can run office applications, print documents on your home printer, browse the network and transfer the contents of the clipboard from one system to another. If the office PC gets into strife, you can restart it from home or—if it's running Windows NT—send it a Ctrl+Alt+Del to end any hung applications.

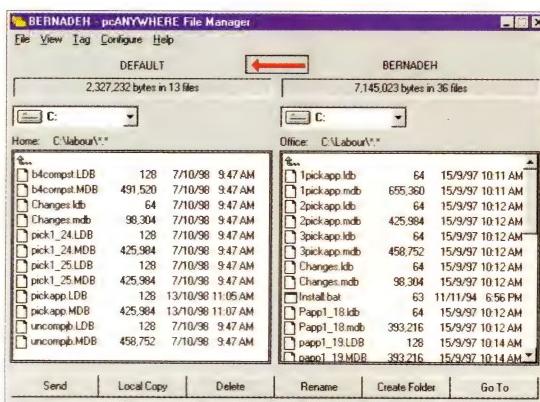


Figure 2. pcTelecommute's File Manager window

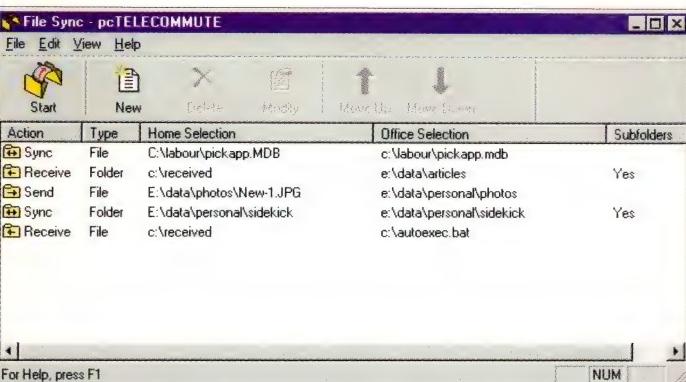


Figure 3. Synchronising files between PCs

When pcT's File Manager window is open, you can transfer files back and forth between PCs by dragging and dropping, and perform standard file operations such as copy, rename and delete. pcT can virus-check files as it downloads them from the office computer. To speed up transfer, you can compress or SpeedSend files; SpeedSend compares files with duplicate filenames and transfers only the part of the file which is different in the source file.

File Sync synchronises files or folders between PCs. It overwrites older files on either PC with newer copies and in the case of folders, ensures that both home and office folders contain the same files. File Sync remembers which files and folders you synchronise, saving you time the next time around. In the event that you forget to synchronise files at the end of a pcT session, pcT reminds you to do so.

pcT's fax module is pretty basic—it has a sparse choice of cover pages and offers no scheduling. However, you can store basic contact details, receive faxes manually or automatically, and send them from within pcT, the Windows Explorer and any printable Windows application. pcT also has a phone dialler and—if you have a Caller-ID capable

modem—can display information about incoming calls. You can opt to screen out unwanted callers by classifying desired contacts as "priority contacts"; pcT notifies you when "priority contacts" call and sends all other calls to your answering machine, logging them in your Inbox at the same time.

Work Monitor tracks your activity throughout the day, including files accessed and any phone calls and faxes going through pcT. As you switch from work to personal activities, you can switch the Work Monitor off, and vice versa. You can also use the Work Monitor to create management or billing reports.

Another useful feature of pcT is that if you're having problems with your home PC, your company's technical support staff can use pcAnywhere to log in to it and resolve the problems. You can do the same to the office PC, access rights permitting, without any need for pcAnywhere.

Assessment

I had no significant problems with pcTelecommute. I connected to my "office" computer on the first try and

could transfer files, use office applications and do everything else the packaging claimed. Not having Windows NT on the office computer, I couldn't send it a Ctrl+Alt+Del to unlock hung applications; however, I could restart it and dial in again after it had had time to reboot.

The only hiccup I encountered—a minor one—was when attempting to connect to the office PC by way of File Sync. File Sync assumes you aren't yet connected to the office PC and fails if a connection is already established. There are several ways to work around this problem, however—the easiest being to establish a connection by way of the File Sync button if you expect to synchronise files during a session.

My verdict on pcTelecommute: a useful program for those who split work time between multiple locations. The PC-to-PC features are good and work well; the other features (fax, phone dialler, etc) are pretty much no-frills, but do their job. □

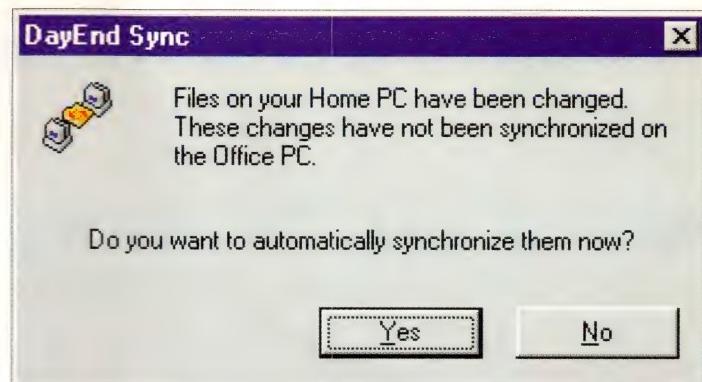


Figure 4. pcT's sync reminder

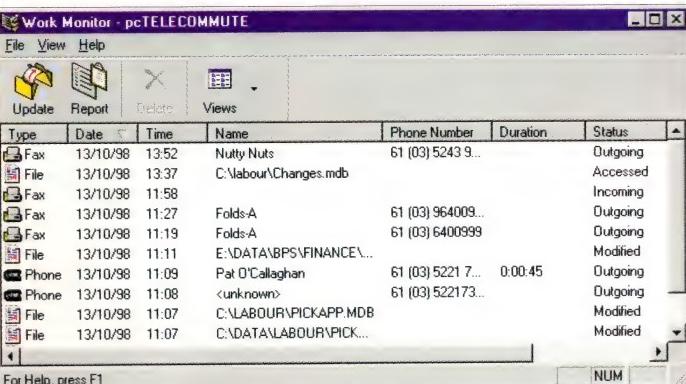
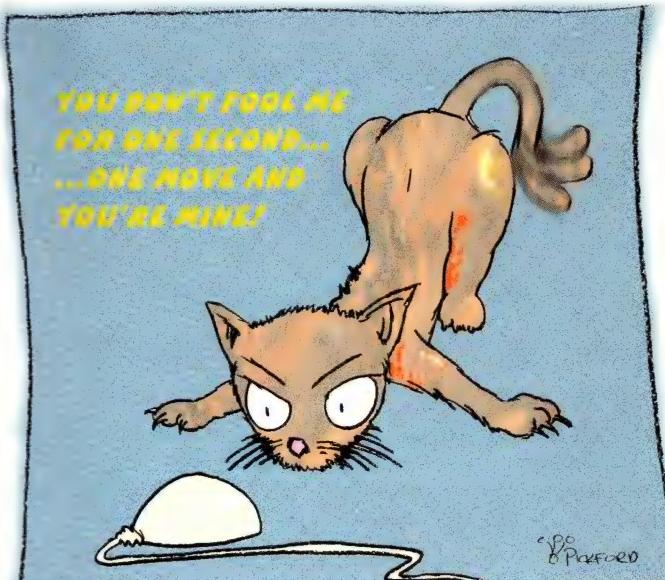


Figure 5. pcT's Work Monitor



More on "Unemployed at 45"

Here is some of the correspondence and follow up, generated by Ash Nallawalla's article, Unemployed at 45, in the November issue of *PC Update*. The article generated more comments, letters to the editor and congratulatory messages than any other in the years I've been editor of *PC Update*. Ash's article didn't just strike a chord with many readers, it inspired action. Look for information about Melb PC's networking activities in 1999. Once again Ash has shown us, by example, how stretching the definition of "users helping users" benefits Melb PC.

» Carol Daniels

Ash

I have just read your article in *PC Update* and I want to tell you how much I admire you for communicating that which we don't usually communicate, so honestly. I believe it takes tremendous courage to be so truthful and I am sure your courage will encourage many to hold on for as long as it takes to get the job that they want.

Thank you for providing such a worthwhile learning experience.

All the best

» Keith Lane

Hello Ash

Congratulations on a great article in *PC Update*. I must admit I was a bit surprised by your frankness. It certainly made for a fascinating read.

Regards

» Robin Howells

Dear Ash,

Thanks for your article in the latest Melb PC magazine. It really struck a chord with me as I am also currently unemployed after being in Telstra for 22 years straight and knocking back an offer to go to IBM GSA after my job was out-sourced last October (yes, it was my choice!).

It really does appear to be difficult getting a job at the moment, especially as I came from a small subset of the IT world, which was application support. I have similar stories, like yourself, such as a one in ten strike rate for interviews, graduate agency recruiters, agencies who seem to forget you exist and agencies who swamped mates who were in the same boat as me, but once secured a job, wouldn't stop ringing them with even more job offers! (Linked databases?)

Anyway, to cut my probably familiar story short, yes, I would be interested in Melb PC offering a networking venue as I am getting sick of the current job-hunting scene. I find it very unproductive and feel the IT agencies are nothing more than profit-seeking vultures. Like yourself, I find it amazing that I haven't secured a job as yet and I start questioning factors such as age, skills, etc. Also, on a more serious note, I find the situation a bit frightening when I think of my kids (and yours if you have any) and of what happens to them, if today's current climate of job uncertainty, downsizing, etc, continues, and what the effects on society could be. Therefore count me in!

Yours in appreciation,

» Leo Slaviero

NB: I am thinking of also commencing a Graduate Diploma of Computing at Deakin in the next year or so (after I finish off my first B.Comm/MIS degree) and wonder if you feel it did open doors for you?

Hello Ed!

Below is a copy of an e-mail I sent to Ash Nallawalla, just as soon as I got to the end of the article "Unemployed at 45" in the last *PC Update*. It's the most riveting article I've yet read in the Melb PC magazine, and that's saying quite a bit — I have never failed to read *PC Update* from cover to cover (except for the subscription stuff, which I know by heart...!).

I guess what really struck me was this: If Ash, who we all know is really talented in IT, can have this experience, then anyone can; and if he can battle on and get through it, and then start thinking about how other people can benefit, then he's well worth emulating!

Hello Ash,

Many, many thanks for that comprehensive article in the latest *PC Update*. It was very good to get to the end and find out that your work had borne fruit!

I am currently (mostly) unemployed, and would like to put my hand up to make use of the networking potential in Melb PC; I may be able to offer some networking opportunities, and not just stick my nose in the trough, so to speak. Just because they haven't worked for me.

I'm a generalist in IT, with certificate-level training in operating and programming. My background is in marketing, sales, training, support and exporting specialist hardware and software, and I ended up as General Manager of a small (under \$5M) company. I am learning, slowly, not to try for "generalist" GM positions, since they usually aren't, really!

Again, many thanks for the article, and for your untiring work for all us Melb PC lurkers.

Regards,

» Trish Fraser



SUGGESTIONS

PC Update
Editorial Team

For your gift list

...and, from melbpc.general

Great to see articles like "Unemployed at 45" in *PC Update*. It may not be strictly computer-related, but why not push the boundaries a little?

Congratulations to all involved in the editorial decision, but especially to Ash for covering a personal subject that many of us would find difficult to share with a public audience.

Regards

» Bob Muirhead

Whilst I'm neither unemployed or nearing 45, I too found the article interesting reading and tended to read the article with greater interest than others.

My congrats! Also, maybe more articles along this line could be considered for up-coming issues

» Tony Steane

Ditto, "me too", and similar comments ...

I've always found pure computer stuff to be a little narrow even if we are a computer club. Good to see a bit of variety.

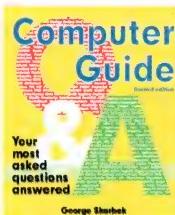
» Bob T.

Thanks to all for the near-identical comments, mostly via e-mail. Several people are keen to form a networking group or groups and we already have a potential leader. Please e-mail me privately if you are interested. You do not need to be unemployed to qualify.

On a sadder note for some of my work colleagues, six of them were laid off today, nearly all in "possible projects" roles that are being shelved to gain some capital to launch the "near future" product that is nearing completion. Times are tough out there.

» Ash

Here are a few of the products that caught our eyes over the last few weeks. If you're still looking for a gift for a loved-one, relation, or even yourself, check these out.

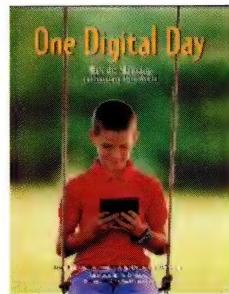
**Computer Guide:
Your most asked
questions answered**

The ideal Christmas gift for those who of us aren't the total master of their PCs.

This is a book of nearly 300 pages that will solve many of your everyday PC problems. It was written by our own George Skarbek, who writes a weekly Q&A column for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Courier Mail* and *West Australian*, as well his regular tips and tricks in *PC Update*.

Even if this book fixes only one nagging problem, it will have been worth buying.

(For more information see page 59.)

**One Digital Day
or How the Microchip is Changing
Our World**

Rick Smolan, the creator of the "One Day in the Life" series has created yet another 24-hour photographic record of places across this world. On 11 July 1997, 100 photograph-

ers set off on their assignments and came back with 200 images that grace this fine coffee-table book. This is a fine gift for the computer or technology enthusiast. More details are available from www.intel.com/OneDigitalDay/

Price: US\$28 from www.amazon.com

Looking good

There's some great intimate apparel for a friend—or yourself, depending on gender or orientation—let's not be too PC (politically correct, that is). Check out the value at www.lingerieforyou.com. (See also page 7.)

**Keep connected with a Maestro Modem**

There's two to choose from:

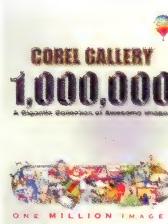
**The Companion**

A great way to get on the Net—for only \$99 you can discover a whole new world

on the Internet. The Companion is the perfect combination of affordability and performance. So for a gift that will guarantee hours of entertainment why not give a Companion. Available from all major retailers.

**The Woomera**

Struggling to find a present for the person who has it all? The Woomera is the ultimate in communications technology and is sure to keep them smiling long after Christmas day. The Woomera features a Liquid Crystal Display, which enables Caller ID and a number of other exciting features. Available for \$299 from all major stores.

Corel Gallery 1,000,000**A Gigantic
Collection of
Awesome Images**

Corel has outdone itself. You may have thought that its 200,000-image compendium of clip art was overwhelming; now it has bundled 1,000,000 images in this offering. It comprises photographs, clip art, Web images, sounds, videos and

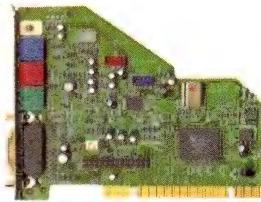
fonts. They include the WebSpice collection of textures, backgrounds, buttons, banners and so on.

RRP: \$179

Aztech PCI 338-A3D

Great sound at a great price

Aztech's \$99 PCI 338-A3D sound card is guaranteed to bring sweet music to your ears this Christmas. If



music does not turn you on, perhaps your favourite game's sounds and effects will be rendered in 3-D positional audio. This is made possible by the 64-voice wavetable synthesis. The card exceeds the Microsoft PC '98 specifications for multimedia audio performance.

RRP: \$99

Distributors:

Westan Pty Ltd
Ph: (03) 9563 6775

Achieva Technology Australia Pty Ltd
Ph: (02) 9742 3288

Buy your PC a Christmas Present!

Your computer will love you! Buy a copy of *Upgrading and Maintaining Your PC* on CD-ROM and learn how to upgrade, fix and optimise your computer. As a Christmas bonus for *PC Update* readers, you'll not just receive this comprehensive CD-ROM but a **FREE** demagnetised phillips-head screwdriver to help you with upgrading and repairs. In his review, Bob Burt described this product as "entertaining and well written". With over an hour of video, printable instructions and detailed explanations of the working of the PC, we're sure you'll find it an invaluable addition to your PC library.

(For more information see page 13.)



Melb PC Membership

There's bound to be someone on your gift list who could use one or more of the benefits of Melb PC. (Just look at the discounts on p.35, for example.) Only \$50 p.a., plus \$10 joining fee (and we'll give you an extra month's membership, free!).

(For more information see page 30.)

Windows 98

It might be best if you give them George's book and sign them up for Melb PC Membership first, just in case. If your friend (or for that matter, yourself) has read Ash's article on page 6, and want to take the plunge, why wait?

RRP: \$169 (Upgrade).

» Happy Holidays!



Do you know your local dealers?

Why not visit your local computer dealer shops to help Melb PC and yourself?

We need you to help increase membership – our strength is our membership, and our members enjoy the benefits that our strength brings.

What does it require?

- ➊ Visit your local dealers
- ➋ Leave some of our membership forms (nothing could be simpler)!

The office will send you bundles of application forms and some notes for guidance in obtaining the interest and co-operation of the dealers in your area.

That's all you have to do! As new members join using the application form you have distributed, you will be credited with additional months of free membership.

The dealer's stamp on the membership form will ensure his commission is paid directly to him from Melb PC.

No experience necessary – anyone can do it!

What's in it for you?

- ➊ Free extension of your membership (nothing could be nicer)!

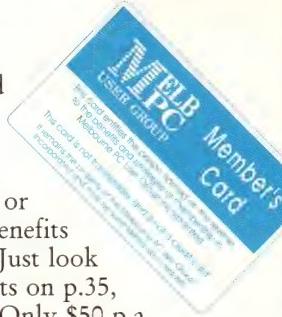
What's in it for the dealer?

- ➋ \$10 commission on each new member
- ➌ Melb PC will help reduce his support requirements (and they all would like that).

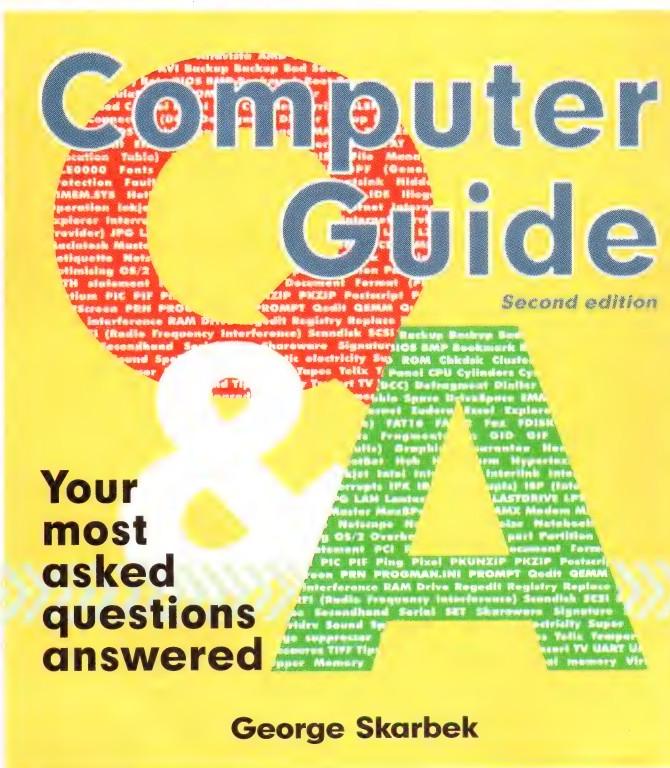
How do you start?

- ➍ Ring the office on 9699 6222
- ➎ Nominate your preferred area and the number of dealers you will cover.

**Melb PC:
Users
helping
users**



Your most asked questions answered



Over 100 hints and tips have been added in this edition, as well as over 50 screen dumps

This book is aimed at everyone interested in personal computing, from beginners to experienced users, covering such broad fields as:

- Hints, tips and problem solving
- Clear and simple explanations on optimising computer performance, freeing up disk space and memory improvement
- How to recover from viruses and accidental deletion of critical system files which would normally prevent your computer from starting
- Help in getting the most out of the Internet
- Guide to upgrading computers
- Types of computers, printers and modems to buy.



George Skarbek, voted favourite author by *PC Update* readers in 1997, has written a second edition of his book *Computer Guide — Your most asked question answered*.

This book is based on material published in the weekly "Q&A" column in the computer section of *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The West Australian* and *The Courier Mail*. Also included are comprehensive articles originally written for Melb PC's award winning magazine, *PC Update*.

The questions and answers have been collated into 19 chapters and many answers have been considerably expanded. This edition has been extensively updated since the publication of the first volume in 1996. Numerous cross-references simplify searching, and several extensively researched articles are included.

*Even if this book
fixes only one
nagging problem,
it will have been
worth buying*



Members'

Price

**RRP
\$29.95**

\$25

Pick up from Melb PC, 27 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne
Or send the details below with a cheque, money order or credit card details for \$30 (includes \$5 p&h) to
Melb PC, PO Box 283, South Melbourne VIC 3205

Please send me George Skarbek's *Computer Guide*

Name Memb no

Delivery Address

Visa / MasterCard / Bankcard / Cheque/M.O.

Expires ____ / ____ copies @ \$30 per copy \$.....

Signature

Peter's PC Update Puzzles

Last month's solutions

Colour blind

- Black: Printer, Eltham, photos
 Green: Advertising agency, Ringwood, birthday card
 Gray: Friend, Greensborough, manuscript
 Brown: Publisher, Blackburn, invoice
 White: Photographer, Lilydale, cheque

Cryptotext

How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated all the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

Sherlock Holmes in *Sign of Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Four of everything

	a	b	c	d	e	f	
A	8	2	8	1	5	6	30
B	1	8	5	7	4	2	27
C	9	6	3	1	5	9	33
D	6	4	9	4	9	7	39
E	2	3	1	4	5	3	18
F	7	6	3	8	7	3	33
	33	29	29	30	30	29	

As we are about to have a long break between issues of *PC Update* and in an attempt to prevent your brain rusting over the holiday period, I've provided a "double dose" of puzzles this month.

These puzzles can be solved without using a computer—if one birdbrain can write them, another can solve them!

Smart students

Five of the top students at Confusion College were presented with their half-year awards, which included one set of text books. Can you work out who received what, and for which subject?

1. The letter of commendation was awarded to the Robinson's child.
2. The History prize-winner's last name is Brown.

Smart students

First Name	Last Name	Award	Subject

Wandering words

H	S	I	T	H	N	W	N	H	H	R	E	G	S	P	I	H	A	E	T	A	I	R
A	M	I	A	A	S	W	T	W	E	O	E	D	G	T	T	T	T	E	S	D	Y	
I	E	S	S	M	I	S	A	L	H	I	W	A	S	N	N	Y	N	W	A	R	E	
I	W	W	W	S	I	T	T	S	H	H	N	A	U	A	A	H	H	E	W	A	Y	

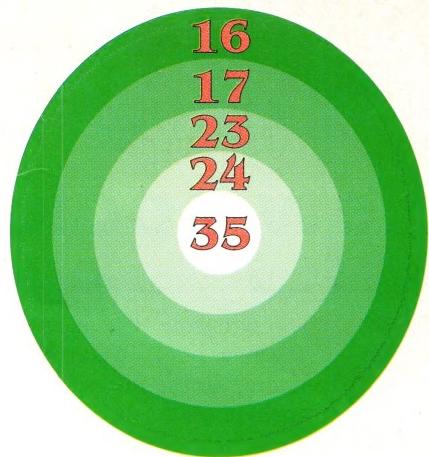


Cryptotext

This cryptotext contains a quote from a famous thinker. The original text was converted using a simple substitution code, that is each occurrence of a particular letter has been replaced with another letter. No letter is replaced by itself.

Hints

The most common letters in the English language are E T A I O and N. Start with the short words.



What a gas

The recent Victorian gas crisis provided the idea for this poser.

There was a major fire at a chemical plant. It was fierce and took ten hours to quell. Emergency services were kept busy evacuating houses within a 5 km radius, because the fumes were so toxic they would kill unprotected civilians on exposure. When the fire started, the wind was blowing from the north to the south. It blew steadily for five hours, when it suddenly changed to blow from the south to the north, doing so until the fire was put out.

Despite this, the emergency services first started evacuating people to the north of the plant and continued this after the wind changed, until the fire was out.

The only civilians killed lived to the north of the plant. Why?

Hints

- Closing doors and windows did not provide protection
- No civilians had breathing apparatus
- Nobody was evacuated from the south
- The fumes were released continuously and it did not rain
- The fumes were heavier than air and did affect the area to the south.

Settling up

Three punters started a day at the Melbourne Cup with the same amounts of money. They agreed to share their winnings (or losses) equally. After the last race they discovered that each had a different amount of money and a different number of notes. One had only \$5 notes, another only \$10 notes, and the third only \$20 notes. If each punter simultaneously gave each of the others two notes, after which they all had the same amount, what is the least it could have been?

Letter sums

In these puzzles each letter is replaced by one of the digits 0 to 9.

TRIAL	TEN
+ TRIAL	+ FORTY
= GUILT	= SIXTY
SANTA	CROSS
- CLAUS	+ ROADS
= XMAS	= DANGER
SEND	TWO
+ MORE	x TWO
= MONEY	= THREE

This last one is all one puzzle, using only the digits 1 to 9.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} ABC \div 3 = IE \\ DEF \div 6 = IE \\ GHI \div 9 = IE \end{array}$$

Off target

A group of three target shooters found this odd target. They decided to use their six-shooters to get some scoring practice.

100-Up

How can each of them score exactly 100 points, without re-loading, and differently to the other two.

Accuracy

They decide to have a scoring competition, where they take turns to shoot. The first shooter has to make a score of 50, the second 51, the third 52, the first 53, and so on up to 100. They have a maximum of six shots at each target score, and win one point for making it exactly. Each will have 17 attempts. If they are all good shots, who is the most likely to win?

One Miss

One of the shooters aims for a particular ring, but misses. If all his remaining shots (up to five) from that round are accurate, what is the lowest score he can guarantee to make?

Two Misses

Another shooter misses twice, hitting two different rings. If all his remaining shots (up to four) from that round are accurate, what is the lowest score he can guarantee to make? □

Cryptotext

H	R	I	J	A	A	S	R	G	V	V		S	V	Z	G	V	M		W	G	C	S	R	G	W		
J	V		M	I	G		W	S	C	C	G	K	G	R	Y	G		Z	G	M	F	G	G	R	T	H	K
M	J	O	G	R	M	V	J	R	W		T	H	K		G	L	A	G	Y	M	J	M	S	T	R	V	

New books added to the library

You will note that many of the new books we are adding to the library include CD-ROMs. Please make sure when you return these books, that you return the CD-ROM at the same time. Your fellow members would also appreciate it if you return new books within a couple of weeks. Older books can be borrowed for up to two months. Some members have had books out on loan for six months or more. This is not playing the game, please return them so that others can use them also.

OPL 01*Linux for Dummies*

IDG Books 1997

An introductory guide to the Linux operating system. Target audience is anyone with a Linux operating system or wanting to try it out. The CD-ROM that comes with this book has the complete operating system. This book will not make you a guru. It is a reference guide with tutorial overtones covering installation usage, network connections and web servers.

OPN 09*Windows 98, Six in One*

Que, 1998

Beginners' level introduction to Windows 98 with expansions for those who wish to expand their knowledge of Windows 98, Internet Explorer 4 and the Internet. Covers Win98 GUI, customisation, connecting to the internet, networking and mobile computing. Ideal for the beginner, not recommended for the experienced Win 98/NT user who wants more than an overview.

OPN 08*Windows 98 Installation and Configuration Handbook*

Que, 1998

Beginner-to-advanced level book aimed at those who need to install Windows 98 and want to customise and reconfigure it. Attempts to fill the gap in the Windows 98 help system. Not a tutorial book, but a survival guide.

HAD 04*DVD Demystified*

McGraw Hill, 1998 (includes DVD sample disk)

Introductory text covering the history and technology of DVD for anyone who wants to understand. The book is not a production guide nor a detailed technical manual, but it provides almost all the information that anyone interested in DVD needs to know.

Contains a comparison with other storage media plus a crystal ball look at the future. Covers both DVD-video and DVD-ROM.

OPT 04*Windows NT Workstation 4 in 24 hours*

Sams, 1997

Twenty-four one-hour lessons designed both for readers who have not used NT4 before as well as those who have has some experience but want to learn more. Covers basic operation, installation, migration from 3.1, Win95, NT3.5 and OS/2, networking troubleshooting and recovery. Appears well written and explanations are clear and concise. The topics are not directed at the MSCE syllabus but are useful for the new NT user.

INE 03*Microsoft Outlook 98, Step by Step*

Microsoft Press, 1998

Microsoft outlook is an integrated electronic mail, calendar, contact and task management program. This version (which is on the CD-ROM with the book) is for Windows 95/98 or NT. For beginning users, it is organised as a teach-yourself training course of 12 lessons.

INE 04*Building applications with Microsoft Outlook*

Microsoft Press 1997. (CD-ROM included)

For programmers and those wanting to develop groupware applications without programming. Introduces visual basic scripting.

PRB 11*Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0 ActiveX Controls Reference*

Microsoft 1997.

A reference book, not suited to bedtime reading.



Acknowledgments

Melbourne PC User Group gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the following organisations:

American Power Conversion for the supply of six uninterruptible power supplies for the Group's Communications Centre.

ACA Pacific for the donation of a Diamond Stealth Video card for *PC Update* production.

Computer Rebuilds for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production and the group's communications centre.

Corel Corporation for copies of CorelDRAW and Corel VENTURA used in the production of *PC Update*.

Hewlett-Packard for a LaserJet 4M printer for administration, and a ScanJet scanner and LaserJet 5Si MX used in *PC Update* production.

Michaels Camera & Video for a Kodak DC20 Digital Camera.

Microsoft Australia for many years of contributions and support.

SONY Australia for the supply of equipment for *PC Update* production.

Symantec Australia for many years of contributions and support.

Monthly meeting

All members and guests welcome

**Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade
Parkville**

**6.00 pm
First Wednesday
each month
except January**

An average of over 500 members and guests attend our monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum to introduce and release new products to those who are both users and decision-makers.

Meetings are arranged around planned themes. Members or presenters who are able to assist or contribute are invited to contact the convener.

Stan Johnstone
Meetings convener
and administrator
Phone: (03) 9578 3091 BH
e-mail: stanj@melbpc.org.au

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Pharmacy College
381 Royal Parade
Parkville



Optus Oval

ROYAL PARADE
CITY

**Melbourne PC User Group
Monthly Meeting Venue**

Next meeting: 2 December

Annual General Meeting
and Network Associates: McAfee Office
(VirusScan, PGP, First Aid 98, and more)
and Morris Tobias will host a live
demonstration of installing a network.

Plus:

- The usual giveaways and raffle
- Random access (your chance to get answers to unsolved problems)
- Club news from the President
- Shareware library sales

Membership

Do you have a problem thinking of gifts for family, friends or colleagues?



The next time you're stuck, why not give them memberships in Melb PC?

PC Update, BBS, SIGS, Training, Internet, Intranet, Dial Help, Monthly Meetings, Shareware, First Aid ... all this and growing.

Anyone who uses a PC will benefit from membership of Melb PC.



Eldorado

- Intel Celeron 300A CPU
- 128K cache
- Gigabyte EX chipset
- 32M SDRAM
- 3.2G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M Intel i740 AGP video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 32G CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit Plug n Play sound card
- Pair of speakers
- Logitech mouse & pad
- Now with 3.2G HDD
- \$1895

Comanche P-II

- Intel Pentium II 333 CPU
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 64M SDRAM
- 6.4G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M Intel i740 AGP video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 36X CD-ROM drive
- SB Ensoniq PCI sound card
- Encore 3D 240W speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- choice of desk-top or mini-tower case
- 33.6K fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software
- \$2490

Apache P-II

- Intel Pentium II 400 CPU
- Gigabyte BX chipset
- 128M 100MHz SDRAM
- 6.4G ultra IDE HDD
- 1.44M FDD
- 8M Intel i740 AGP video card
- 15" Hyundai monitor
- 36X CD-ROM drive
- SB Ensoniq PCI sound card
- Encore 3D 240W speakers
- Microsoft mouse & pad
- 104 keyboard
- choice of ATX desk-top or mini-tower case
- 56K fax/modem
- Windows 98
- Vet anti-virus software
- \$3095

- Free delivery & setup
- 2 year parts & unlimited labour warranty!
- 3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on Hyundai monitor!

* Limited to Melbourne metro areas only.

TECS on-site computer service

Do you have a sick computer in need of some attention? It's out of warranty and you don't know anyone you can trust? Afraid of unplugging all those cables to take the system to your nearest shop and then having to remember which plug goes where when you get it back? Why not give TECS a call? We can service most IBM compatible PCs on your premises, expertly and efficiently. We can also provide networking solutions. You know that TECS is one name you can TRUST.

Call your local TECS store for details!

TECS HOT PRODUCTS

MEMORY

8M 72pin FPM	\$32
8M 72pin EDO	\$39
16M 72pin EDO	\$65
32M 72pin EDO	\$129
32M SDRAM	\$89
32M 100MHz SDRAM	\$95
64M 100MHz SDRAM	\$199
128M 100MHz SDRAM	\$389

Memory for notebooks

Call for price & availability.
We can source most types.

IDE HARD DRIVES

3.2G Quantum	\$259
4.3G Seagate	\$289
5.1G Quantum	\$339
6.4G Quantum	\$385
7.6G Quantum	\$469
8.4G IBM	\$479
10G IBM	\$555
10G IBM 7200rpm	\$619
12.9G IBM	\$839
16.8G IBM	\$995

CPU's

IDT C6-225MX	\$115
IBM/Cyrix 6x86-233MX	\$119
IBM/Cyrix 6x86-266MX	\$169
IBM/Cyrix 6x86-300MX	\$189
IBM/Cyrix 6x86-333MX	\$269
AMD K6-2-300 3D	\$239
AMD K6-2-333 3D	\$269
Intel Celeron 300A Mendocino	\$335
Intel Pentium II 333	\$489
Intel Pentium II 350	\$525
Intel Pentium II 400	\$910
Intel Pentium II 450	\$1365

MOTHERBOARDS

Gigabyte SIS AGP AT 512K	\$169
Gigabyte AX ALI ATX 512K	\$179
Gigabyte T2 AT 512K	\$165
Gigabyte TX3 AT 512K	\$185
Gigabyte ATX2 ATX 512K	\$185
Gigabyte LX3 ATX	\$225
Gigabyte BX AT	\$279
Gigabyte BX ATX	\$279
Gigabyte BX ATX SCSI	\$495

Upgrade Special!

Upgrade you current system to 6x86-PR233MX with 32M of RAM and 2M S3 Virge video card.*

- IBM/Cyrix 6x86-PR233MX CPU
- Gigabyte SIS chipset 512K cache motherboard
- 32M 10ns SDRAM
- 2M S3 Virge PCI video card

Price including installation \$419

CD-ROM drives

Are you still struggling with slow 4X or 8X speed drives? Why not upgrade to a fast 32X speed and get the most out of your computer?

Colour flatbed scanner

Specifications:

- A4 size
- Up to 30-bit true colour scanning
- Scan from 75 to 9600DPI!!
- fast single pass scanning
- TWAIN compatible
- * Parallel Port interface. Ideal for notebooks!

\$139

Modems



Deluxe AT computer case

Much sturdier than your average cases!
Built to last!

Most of our systems are assembled using these cases.

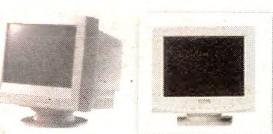


\$85

\$79

Colour Monitors

3 year manufacturer's on-site warranty on all Daewoo, Hyundai and LG monitors!



14" Daewoo 1427X1	\$259
15" Daewoo 518B	\$335
15" hyundai 5854	\$329
15" LG 55i	\$329
15" LG 57i	\$419
15" Sony 100ES	\$599
17" Daewoo 1707b	\$665
17" Hyundai	\$775
17" Sony 200GS	\$1375
19" Viewmaster .26dp	\$1079

Networking solutions

Whether you're looking for solutions to home or office networking TECS can provide you with the necessary hardware. Here is a small sample of the type of items we can offer

2m CAT5 UTP cable	\$7.50	D-Link combo ISA	\$35.00
2m CAT5 UTP x-over cable	\$9.95	Kingston combo ISA	\$55.00
2m BNC ethernet cable	\$7.50	D-Link combo PCI	\$40.00
10m BNC ethernet cable	\$14.95	Compex combo PCI	\$50.00
8 port 10 base RJ45 hub	\$99.00	Kingslon combo PCI	\$55.00
16 port 10 base RJ45 hub	\$229.00	Compex 100 base PCI	\$80.00
5 port 100 base hub	\$269.00	Intel EEPro 10/100 PCI	\$115.00
24 port 10/100 switching hub	\$2375.00	D-Link 10/100 print server	\$555.00

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES ON NOTEBOOKS

Twinhead, Toshiba, Wisetek, Mitac, Dual Technologies, IBM, Hewlett Packard



The Electronic & Computer Stores

Internet web address: www.tecs.com.au

City: 305 Latrobe St.

Coburg: 311 Sydney Rd.

Clayton: Cnr. Blackburn & Wellington Rds. Ph:(03)9562-9501 Fax:(03)9562-9261

Blackburn: 88 South Pde.

Ph:(03)9602-3499 Fax:(03)9642-8551

Ph:(03)9383-7511 Fax:(03)9383-7896

Ph:(03)9877-7071 Fax:(03)9877-7071

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E &OE

